WEDNESDAY
June 12, 2024

BENGALURU
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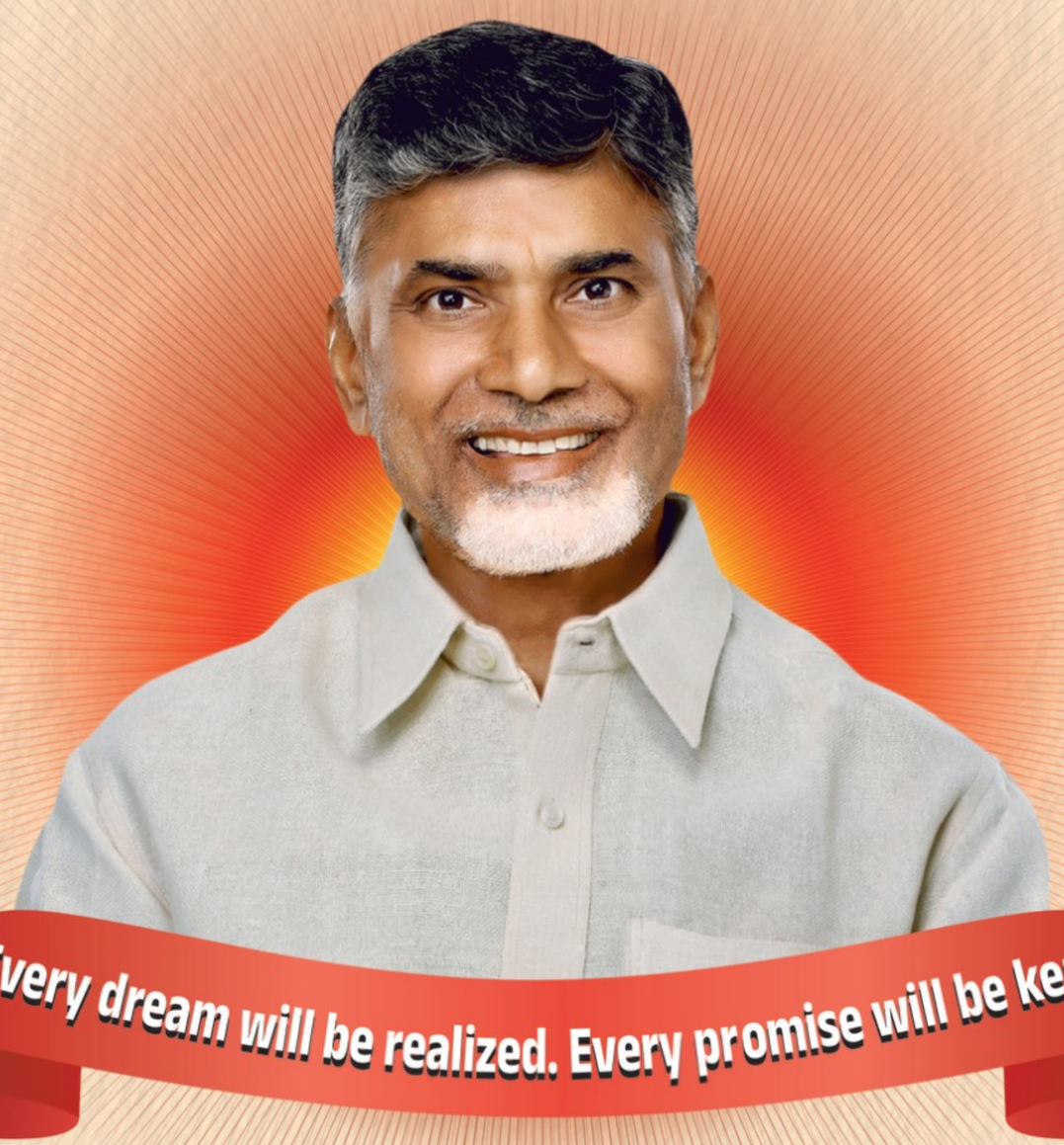

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Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu Garu

Will swear in as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh

Date & Time

12th of June, 2024, Wednesday At 11:27 AM

Venue

Kesarapalli IT Park, Gannavaram, Krishna District

Guests of Honour

Sri Narendra Modi Garu

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

Sri S Abdul Nazeer Garu Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh

Sri Amit Shah Garu Hon'ble Union Home Minister of India

Special Guests

Smt. Purandeswari Garu

Hon'ble State President of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Andhra Pradesh

Sri Pawan Kalyan Garu

Hon'ble State President of Jana Sena Party

Heartfelt Welcome to everyone!

Issued by: Commissioner, Information & Public Relations Department

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KEY APPOINTMENT

Lt. Gen. Upendra will be next Army chief

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ISRAEL-GAZA CEASEFIRE

UNSC adopts resolution aimed at ending war

WORLD » PAGE 16

HISTORIC PROSECUTION

Biden's son convicted on all gun charges

WORLD » PAGE 16

A SIREN SONG

India's looming financial crisis

Nation presents classic example of elements that signal a calamity

EDITORIAL » PAGE 10

IN HIGH SPIRITS

Upbeat India takes on confident USA

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

Parks to remain open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.

BENGALURU
Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday announced that all 1,200 neighbourhood parks in Bengaluru will remain open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. on all days. » Page 2

CM's directive to officials

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah chaired a meeting with senior officials of Commercial Taxes, Stamps and Registration, transport department, and Excise departments to look at ways to mop up more revenue.

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OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 9

Mohan Majhi, BJP's tribal face, picked as Odisha CM

The four-time MLA of Keonjhar was party's chief whip earlier; BJP stakes claim to form govt. for the first time in the State; K.V. Singh Deo and Pravati Parida to be Deputy Chief Ministers

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Mohan Charan Majhi, four-time MLA and tribal leader, will take the oath of office as Chief Minister of Odisha on Wednesday. The BJP on Tuesday staked claim to form a government in the State after the party's MLAs-elect unanimously elected Mr. Majhi the BJP Legislature Party leader.

This is the first time the BJP is forming a government in the State on its own after the saffron party's arrival in Odisha in the mid-1980s. It won 78 seats in the 147-member Assembly. The party has received letters of support from three Independent MLAs. The Biju Janata Dal has won 51 seats and the Congress 14. One seat went to the CPI(M).

Power point: Rajnath Singh, Mohan Charan Majhi and Governor Raghubar Das at the Raj Bhavan in Bhubaneswar. BISWARANJAN ROUT

The week-long speculation surrounding the BJP's chief ministerial pick reached its pinnacle when Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, central observers of the BJP, landed in Bhubaneswar in the afternoon.

After hectic parleys with senior leaders, including MPs and MLAs-elect, Mr. Singh announced Mr. Majhi's name at the party office.

The four-time MLA for Keonjhar, accompanied by Union Ministers and other party leaders, proceeded to the Raj Bhavan and met Governor Raghubar Das.

Mr. Majhi was the BJP's chief whip in the 16th Odisha Legislative Assembly. Veteran BJP leaders – K.V. Singh Deo, six-time MLA from Patnagarh Assembly constituency, and Pravati Parida, first-time MLA from Nimapara Assembly segment – will serve as Deputy Chief Ministers.

"A total of 4.5 crore people have voted BJP to power to bring transformation and fight corruption. I acknowledge their support. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is loved by all Odias, had exuded confidence that the government would change and the BJP would come to power. It has come true," said the CM-designate.

CONTINUED ON
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Actor Darshan, associates arrested in murder case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa was taken into custody in connection with a murder case on Tuesday. The actor was picked up from a hotel in Mysuru and was shifted to Bengaluru. The Bengaluru police are investigating the murder of one Renukaswamy, a fan of the actor, who was allegedly tortured and murdered on charge of harassing Pavithra Gowda, a close friend of Mr. Darshan, online. Ms. Gowda and Mr. Darshan are the prime accused in the case, say the police.

The police had taken nine persons for questioning and when Mr. Darshan's name was mentioned, he was also taken into custody. He was brought to the city in a police vehicle and grilled for several hours before he was taken to the Bowring hospital for medical examination.

Darshan Thoogudeepa going for a medical examination on Tuesday after he was taken into custody in connection with the murder of Renukaswamy (inset). K. MURALI KUMAR

After seven hours of intense questioning, the Kamakshipalya police produced Mr. Darshan and his associates before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court, after which they were taken into six-day police custody for further investigation.

The police, while submitting remand application, requested the court that Mr. Darshan, Ms. Gowda and others are required for spot *mahazar* and their call records details need to be verified. Considering the application, the court ordered one-week police custody.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 4

BBMP's OTS scheme for property tax defaulters extended till July 31

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has extended the one-time settlement (OTS) scheme for property tax defaulters for the payment of taxes with a penalty of 50% and 100% concession on interest until July 31.

Traditionally, the scheme is applicable until May 31 of the financial year, and this extension is aimed at providing relief to property owners.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who is also in charge of Bengaluru City Development, on Tuesday said the BBMP had not put pressure on property owners to pay taxes owing to elections to the Lok Sabha. More than 20 lakh building owners come under the jurisdiction of the BBMP. Close to four lakh property owners have not paid taxes. The civic body would give khata to property owners after 90 days of the payment of tax. Mr. Shivakumar, however, ruled out extension of the deadline beyond July 31.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath at a press conference in Bengaluru on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

More than 50,000 people had utilised the scheme and paid property taxes. Property owners would be listed as defaulters after August 1 if they do not pay tax by July 31. As per official estimates, the BBMP should collect ₹5,200 crore in taxes. However, the civic body had collected only ₹1,300 crore, the Deputy Chief Minister said. Many building owners rent their premises for commercial purposes and pay only residential/housing taxes and violate the law, official sources maintained.

Mr. Shivakumar said the BBMP had begun the process of digitising documents of 20 lakh properties in the city limits. Already, digitisation of eight lakh properties had been completed. The documents would be delivered on the doorstep of property owners. The digitisation would be completed in the next three months, he said.

Digitisation is part of the initiative taken up by the civic body to identify properties outside the tax net, identify and regularise building violations, and to reduce forgery of property documents.

He said all unauthorised flex boards would be removed in the city and the Assistant Revenue Officer would be held accountable for non-removal of such boards. Citizens can complain about the existence of illegal flex boards by calling helpline number 1533 of the BBMP and providing information and uploading photographs on WhatsApp number 9480683939.

Asked about elections to the civic body, he said preparations were being made. "Polls will be held as early as possible, otherwise the court will direct us," he said.

Sarod maestro Rajeev Taranath passes away

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Sarod maestro Pandit Rajeev Taranath, who was undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Mysuru, passed away on Tuesday.

A source close to the 92-year-old veteran Indian classical musician said the end came around 6.30 p.m. in the hospital. His mortal remains will be kept for public viewing at his residence near Jnana Ganga School in Kuvempunagar in Mysuru from 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesday.

The distinguished musician leaves behind a son, who is on the way to Mysuru from the U.S. The last rites will be performed at the crematorium near Chamundi foothills at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, said sources.

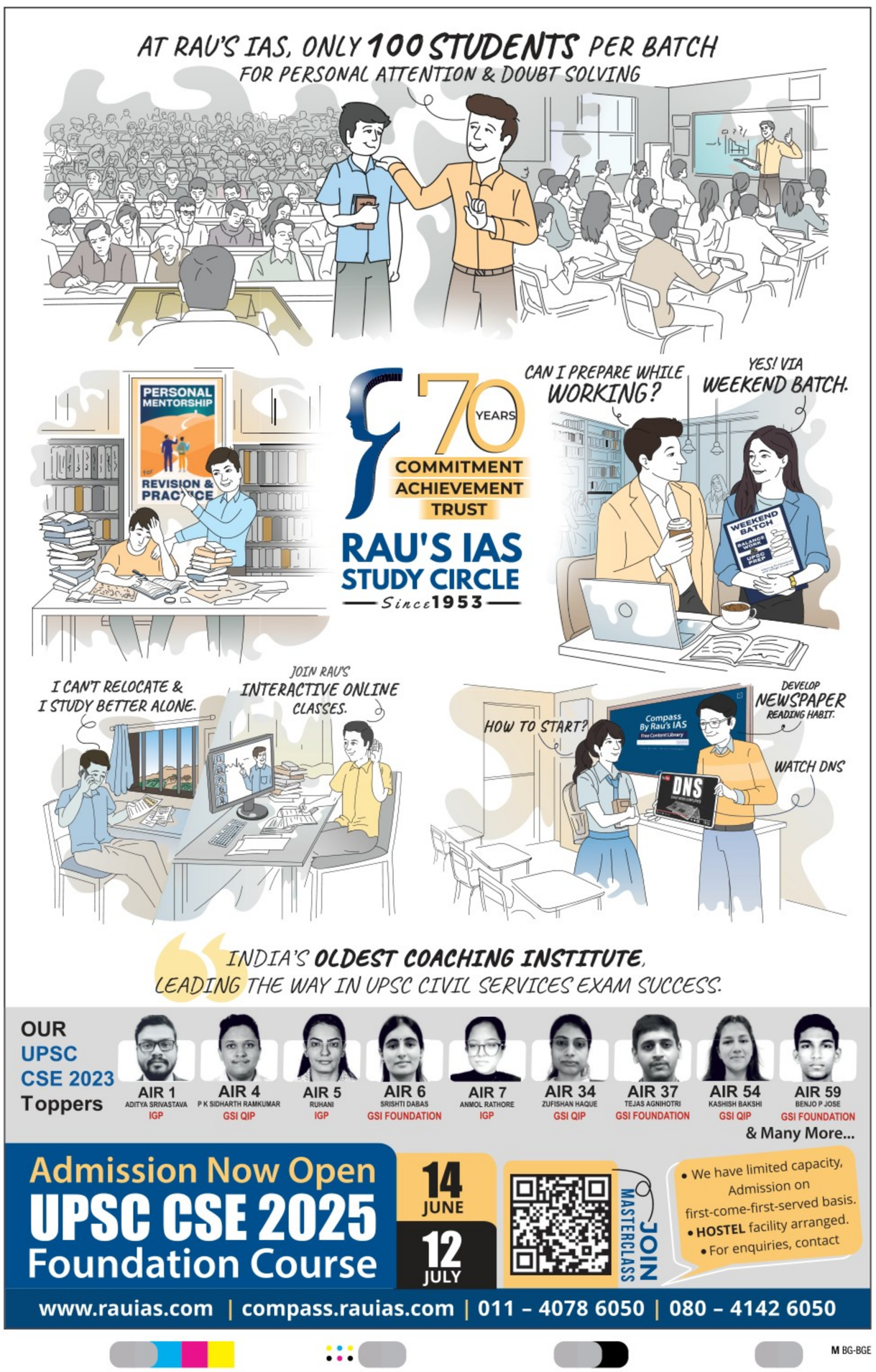
Pandit Rajeev Taranath had been hospitalised since the last week of May 2024 for treatment of a fracture. Minister for Social Welfare H.C. Mahadevappa, who is also the Minister in charge of Mysuru district, visited the sarod exponent at the private hospital and promised that the State government would bear the expenses of his medical treatment.

A distinguished exponent of Senia Maihar Gharana, Pandit Taranath had been honoured nationally by the Government of India with a Padma Shri in 2019 and the Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 2000.

In Karnataka, he had been bestowed with the Rajyotsava Award in 1996, Chowdaiah Memorial Award in 1998, Sangeet Vidwan Award in 2018, and the Nadoja Award in 2019.

Born on October 17, 1932 to Pandit Taranath and Sumathi Bai, Pandit Rajeev Taranath completed his BA (Honours) from Bangalore Central College by securing first rank.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2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One-hit wonders or ushering in a new era? The Men in Blue will look to replicate their Tokyo heroics

Twelve out of the 18 goals India scored in its eight matches against Belgium, Britain, Argentina, and Germany were field goals, a welcome sign given the team's struggles in this department and over-reliance on Harmanpreet and PCs to score. This gives hope for the Indian forwards to strike rich in Paris

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

While six of the nine teams in the fray are yet to complete their full quota of games, the Indian men's hockey team wrapped up its FIH Pro League assignment on Sunday. An event that, with just over a month to go for the Olympics, has done little to either give a clearer idea of the team's prospects in Paris or of the final 16 who will be entrusted with executing the team's plans there.

The 16 matches India played, at home and in Europe across London and Belgium, saw the team finish with 24 points and results spread as evenly as possible - five wins and losses each in regular time, three wins and as many defeats in shoot-outs - to be currently fourth on the table.

With all the top teams in the world participating, including Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Great Britain, Spain and Ireland, it was the ideal testing ground for Craig Fulton. While the coach travelled with a massive 28-member squad - to Europe as well as the Australia series before it, where India suffered a 5-0 whitewash - the amount of game time differed, giving an indication of who might be in the mix for a final call-up.

Leaky defence

India played eight matches in Antwerp and London against Belgium, Britain, Argentina and Germany, failed to win any against the first two and conceded 35 goals across 16 matches, some of them at crucial junctures - right at the end or in the opening minutes of the game. Fulton's insistence on defending to win will require tightening the back line before Paris. The defence has often been caught napping and out of position, specially at the beginning, and there have been far too many basic errors of mis-traps and mis-passes, delayed decision-making and losing sight of the ball.

Jarmanpreet Singh and Amit Rohidas have been erratic, the latter redeeming himself somewhat as a rusher during penalty corner defence. Sumit has been inconsistent and even captain Harmanpreeet Singh has occasionally looked less than assured. Jugraj Singh, whose presence in the team has been down more to being the second drag-flicker in the side - which, powerful as they are, have been off-target too often -- needs to shore up his defensive play. India has conceded 80 PCs through the 16 games - an average of five per game, and it is not an ideal situation.

In the past, coaches have experimented with pushing Manpreet Singh to the back and the former skipper, enjoying himself and dazzling on the field in the last 12 months, can be the missing defensive link for Fulton. That will, however, mean either dropping Sanjay or moving the players around in other areas.

Hit-and-miss in attack

Pulling Manpreet back would also mean the midfield - an area that is the beating heart of any team but often slips under the radar and away from the spotlight -- will need to be solidified. Hardik Singh, unsurprisingly, has been the motor pumping incessantly to create chances and openings out of thin air here, freeing up Manpreet for other duties, but will need more support. Vivek has been missing his sharpness and penetration for a while now while Rajkumar Pal has been impressive. But the big gains, on the Europe leg, have been in the attack.

Twelve out of the 18 goals India scored in the eight matches were field goals, a welcome sign given the team's struggles in this department and over-reliance on Harmanpreet and PCs to score. A look at the statistics indicate that most of India's attacks had Sukhjeet Singh and Abhishek combining inside the circle. Their ability to use Harmanpreet and Manpreet's long aerials to their advantage has been another positive. While the tall Araijeet Singh Hundal has earned enough game time, Boby Singh Dhami has impressed with his game sense in the limited time he's got.

There will also be questions asked of experienced hands including Akashdeep, Lalit Upadhyay and even Mandeep Singh on their contributions upfront. While Harmanpreet is currently the joint top-scorer with 12 goals - eight of them from PCs - India as a unit has managed only 14 from 75 earned -- a conversion rate of a measly 18.6 percentage. It gives hope for the Indian forwards to strike rich in Paris, either through scoring themselves or setting up PCs but also reinforces the over-reliance on Harmanpreet.

> This league has been crucial in helping us understand our strengths and areas for improvement. We now know where we stand and what we need to work on to perform at our best on the global stage
> **HARMANPREET**

If there is one role that the team can be called reasonably settled, it is the goalkeeper's. While there is no questioning the massive improvement in Krishan Pathak's performances and contributions to India's performances in the last couple of years, the Europe leg did reaffirm one thing - PR Sreejesh, at 36, remains the best Indian in the business by a fair distance. Barring something unforeseen or absolutely disastrous, the veteran should be a shoo-in for his fourth Olympics. His reflexes and solidity, along with his constant guidance from the back, have been crucial in India's results.

There may be a few trump cards and strategic moves up Fulton's sleeves that he would prefer revealing only at the Olympics. "This league has been crucial in helping us understand our strengths and areas for improvement. Competing against top-tier teams has given us valuable insights into our game. We now know where we stand and what we need to work on to perform at our best on the global stage," Harmanpreet said after the culmination of India's games.

The team will now take a short break before returning to Bengaluru for one final lap of training and ironing out the creases from June 22, a period that will also see the coach and selectors decide on the final 16.

"We have identified specific aspects of our game that need attention, and the upcoming camp will be vital in working on those areas. Our goal is to build on our performance and ensure we are fully prepared for the Paris Olympics," Harmanpreet concluded.

Tokyo was the culmination of a gradual, often painful growth of an under-estimated team over a decade. Paris will be the tough follow-up act that will decide if it was a fluke or the beginning of a new era for Indian hockey.

THE GIST

- India played 16 matches and finished with 24 points and results spread evenly – five wins and losses each in regular time, three wins and as many defeats in shoot-outs – to be currently fourth on the table
- The Indian defence has often been caught napping and out of position, specially at the beginning, and there have been far too many basic errors of mis-traps and mis-passes, delayed decision-making and losing sight of the ball
- While Harmanpreet is currently the joint top-scorer with 12 goals – eight of them from PCs – India as a unit has managed only 14 from 75 earned -- a conversion rate of a measly 18.6 percentage

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Office of the Executive Engineer, Miner Irrigation And Ground Water Development Division, Ballari

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 13/2024 Date : 07-06-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender through IREPS only for supply of following items : **Tender Closing Time : 10:30 Hrs.**

Sl.	Tender No.	Description in brief (E- Open Tenders)	Quantity	Tender Due on
1	80231082	Servoplex SHC-120 (IOCL) Grease for Traction Motor	3150 Kgs	18.06.2024
2	60232063A	1 M long combination Fish plate for BG 60Kg	1109 Set	19.06.2024
3	60248822	Thick Web Switch Expansion Joint 60 Kg	300 Set	20.06.2024
4	60242020	1 in 8.5 BG 60 Kg Weldable CMS Crossing	111 Set	24.06.2024
5	60244218	PSC sleepers for 60Kg of 2 types	3945 Running Mtrs	24.06.2024
6	38231579	Adapter (Narrow Jaw) Class 'E' 6"X11	6952 Nos	24.06.2024
7	30241244	Non-Asbestos Based K Type Brake Block	76764 Nos	26.06.2024
8	L3245376	Exterior fleet graphic film for LHB	11 Set	27.06.2024
9	16241468	Contact Beam, Ceramic resistor& Overhauling kit	89 Set	03.07.2024
10	30241806	Bogie Bolster Arrangement for Non-AC Coaches	91 Nos	02.07.2024
11	30241100	Axle Box Housing Finished	1567 Nos	19.06.2024
12	33241354	Knuckle to Drg No. FASL/TLC/K/0506	53 Nos	21.06.2024
13	90241093	MS Flat 40x6 MM	45100 Kgs	04.07.2024
14	17231463C	Duct Assembly Air Traction Motor	169 Nos	28.06.2024
15	45241301B	Coupling socket assembly suitable for inter vehicular couple	220 Nos	24.06.2024
16	33245005	Automatic smoke/fire detection for AC coaches	91 Set	26.06.2024
17	18241229	Switch Roller	656 Nos	28.06.2024
18	17231103E	Engine air filter	4270 Nos	28.06.2024
19	45241275	Emergency Battery Charger for LHB AC coaches	273 Nos	01.07.2024
20	80231041C	Exxon Arapen RB 320 Grease for CTRB	4163 Kg	03.07.2024
21	77241002	Paint, Enamel Smoke Grey	30120 Ltr	18.07.2024
22	80241044A	Shell Gadus S5 V42P 2.5 Grease	2070 Kgs	15.07.2024
23	83242058	T/524 F, Reservation/ Cancellation form	32590000 Nos	08.07.2024

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/152/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi**

South Western Railway - SWR | southwesternrailway_swr | SWRRLY | southwesternrailway | SWRRLY

Government of Jharkhand
JHARKHAND FLYING INSTITUTE
(A Society Registered under Dept. of Cabinet Secretariat and Vigilance (Civil Aviation Division), Jharkhand
STATE HANGAR, BIRSA MUNDA AIRPORT ROAD, HINOO, RANCHI
Email – jfi.govtfly@gmail.com Telefax:- 0651-2250319, 2251090

Tender Ref. No: - HSS/03/2024-JFI-94/Ranchi, Date:- 11/06/ 2024
Very Short e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders under two bid system are invited for Helicopters Shuttle Service Between Deoghar and Basukinath at Jharkhand.
As per the following schedule of events:-

1.	Tender Ref. No.	HSS/03/2024-JFI/94 / Ranchi, Dated-11/06/2024
2.	Name of Work	**JHARKHAND FLYING INSTITUTE** "JFI" invites Very Short e-Tender from Service Provider or Non Scheduled Operator's Permit (NSOP) holders for Helicopter Shuttle service between Deoghar and Basukinath at State of Jharkhand.
3.	Tender Participation	Rs. 25,000/- (Rs. Twenty Five Thousand only) Through Online mode.
4.	EMD	Rs. 2,00,000/- (Rs. Two Lakhs only) Through Online Mode.
5.	Publish of Tender on website & Start of Submission of e-bids	12/06/2024 at 10:00 AM
6.	Start of Downloading Tender Documents.	12 /06/2024 at 10:00 AM
7.	Last date for submission of e-bids.	22/06/2024 upto 06:00 PM
8.	Opening of Technical Bids.	24/06/2024 at 12:30 PM
9.	Opening of Financial Bids.	After scrutiny of Technical Bid
10.	Time for work completion.	10 days from the signing of agreement.
11.	Officer Inviting e-Tender	Managing Director, Jharkhand Flying Institute, Govt. of Jharkhand
12.	Help line Number of e-Tender Notice	Mr. Rathour Nitant K. Singh, Section Officer Mob. No. 9472749978, E-Mail- jfi.govtfly@gmail.com

For further details and applying online, please visit **jharkhand tenders.gov.in**

Sd/-
Managing Director
Jharkhand Flying Institute

PR.NO.326064 Civil Aviation(24-25):D

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THE HINDU

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE/T(W&M)/MYS/EEE(O)/AEE-2/24-25/902 **Date: 10.06.2024**

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bids vide the below mentioned Bid Enquiry No.

1) Bid Enq. No.: KPTCL/T(W&M)/Mys/SEE/EE(O)/AEE-2/146 Dismantling, Transportation (to and fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and commissioning of sick Power Transformer of rating 20MVA, 66/11kV, Bharath Bijlee make Sl No.4767/9 lying at 66/11kV **Gundlupete** Substation on total turnkey basis.

2) Bid Enq. No.: KPTCL/T(W&M)/Mys/SEE/EE(O)/AEE-2/147 Dismantling, Transportation (to and fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and commissioning of sick Power Transformer of rating 12.5MVA, 66/11KV, Andrewyule Make, Sl. No. 12364 lying at 66/11KV **K.R.Pete** Substation on total turnkey basis.

3) Bid Enq. No.: KPTCL/T(W&M)/Mys/SEE/EE(O)/AEE-2/148 Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of Copper Control cable of the sizes 4Cx2.5 Sq.mm, 4Cx4 Sq.mm, 4Cx6 Sq.mm & 19Cx2.5 Sq.mm required at various substations in Transmission Circle Mysuru conforming to Technical Specifications. F.O.R.D at Store/Site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading.

4) Bid Enq. No.: KPTCL/T(W&M)/Mys/SEE/EE(O)/AEE-2/149 Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of Copper Control cable of the sizes 10Cx2.5 Sq.mm, 4Cx6 Sq.mm & 19Cx2.5 Sq.mm required at 220kV R/s Begur Chamaraja Nagara TL&SS Division coming under Transmission (W&M) Circle Mysore conforming to Technical Specifications. F.O.R.D at Store/Site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading.

5) Bid Enq. No.: KPTCL/T(W&M)/Mys/SEE/EE(O)/AEE-2/150 Design, Manufacturing, testing and Supply of 5 Star rated (Energy Efficiency Level-3), 100kVA, 11kV/0.433kV, 3phase Dy11 Copper winding LT Transformers required at various nodal centers in Transmission Circle Mysuru conforming to Technical Specifications F.O.R.D at Store/Site basis, including all applicable taxes and duties.

The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **www.kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.on** or after **18.06.2024 (Sl. No: 1 and 2), 24.06.2024 (Sl. No: 3 & 4) & 28.06.2024 (Sl. No. 5).** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- **Superintending Engineer (El.), Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, I Floor, Prasarana Bhavana, FTS Compound, N.R. Mohalla, Mysuru - 570 007. Ph: 0821-2455018.**

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PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

Reg: Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Dy. Chief Engineer/O&M/MM-II, GHTP, Lehra Mohabat-151111 (Bathinda)
M: No. 96461-17607 E-mail: se.mm2.lehra@gmail.com
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in

Tender Enquiry No.: 80/CHP/HEMC-308-Vol-XI, Dated:- 07-06-2024

Dy. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Mtc. Circle-II/GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-tender for the work of "AMC to attend various Routine, Preventive and Break-Down Mechanical maintenance work of all the Heavy Equipment under HEMC/CHP, GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat (Wagon Tipplers, Stacker Reclaimers, Primary & Secondary Crushers, Dust Suppression System, Dust Extraction System, Ventilation System and Crusher/Grinder of coal sampling lab of coal handling plant Stage-I&II etc.) on lump sum basis for a period of one year at GHTP."
For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from **07-06-2024** from **05:00** PM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

GHTP-28/24 76155/12/2894/2023/34386

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.

Regd. Office:- PSEB H.O. Building, The Mall, Patiala
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Contact NO. 96461-18773

SHORT TERM TENDER ENQUIRY No.: QQ- 1330/PO/C&S dt 07.06.2024

Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd Floor, Multistorey Building, The Mall, Patiala, invites E-tender for procurement of 1Cx150 sq.mm-112KM, 4Cx25 sq.mm-920Km and 4Cx150 sq.mm-88Km LT XLPE insulated , PVC sheathed, Aluminum Conductor, unarmoured cable, ISI marked as per tender specification no. QQ-1330/PO/C&S dated 07.06.2024. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 07.06.2024 (5:00PM) onwards.

NOTE: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C 274/24 76155/12/2898/2023/34392

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.

No: KREIS/EE-1/Tender-06/2024-25 Date: 11.06.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)

The tenders have been invited for **Repair Works in Bengaluru, Mysore, Belagavi and Kalburgi Revenue Division of KREIS and Repair and Maintenance works in Kolar, Chamarajanagar and Mysore Districts of KREIS, respectively (Tender Indent No. 306, 310, 318, 324, 322, 319, 323, 321)** through e-Portal vide website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **11.06.2024.** The last date for receipt of tenders is **25.06.2024.** The details may be viewed in the above website.

Note: Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-Procurement portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer-1
KREIS

DIPR/CP/YC/268/2024-25

ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸರಬರಾಜು ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಮ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ)
ನಿಗಮ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ,
ಚಾವಿಸನಿನಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು–570017
Telephone No: 0821-2544963

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office,
CESC, Mysuru-570017
Web Site: www.cescmysore.org.
E-mail ID:gmproc@cescmysore.org
Company Identity Number[CIN]:-U40109KA2004SGC035177

No.GM (Proc)/EE(C)/AEE(C)/AE(C)/M.Z/2024-25/4703 **Dt: 07.06.2024**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
[e-procurement mode]

General Manager(Procurement), Corporate Office, CESC, Mysuru on behalf of CESC invites tender for the following Civil Engineering Works from eligible contractors.

Sl. No	Enquiry No.	Description of Work	Amount put to Tender (Rs. In Lakhs)
1.	CESC/GM(Proc)/2024-25/CVL-01 D:07.06.2024.	Construction of Home office for Hon'ble Managing director, CESC at Jyothinagara, Mysuru.	204.73

The tender documents will be available on or after 12.06.2024 the details regarding participating in the tender can be obtained through e-Procurement portal of Government of Karnataka http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in or help desk 080-25501227/25501216 or email address support@eprochelpdesk.com. The last date for submission of bids is 27.06.2024. The prospective bidders can obtain further details from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- General Manager(Procurement), Corporate Office, CESC, Mysuru.

DIPR/DDMYS-50/KSMCA-38/2024-25

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS (WEST) DIVISION, SANGLI

Outward No. AB/Tender/ 3092/2024 Phone No. 0233-2375898, Fax-0233-2373233
Date: 06.06.2024 E-mail:- westsangli.ee@mahapwd.gov.in

E-TENDER NOTICE NO.4 for 2024-25.

Executive Engineer, P.W. (West) Division, Sangli, on behalf of Public Works Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, invites offers on e-tender platform. The tender forms can be downloaded from Govt. of Maharashtra, website http://mahatenders.gov.in. The Executive Engineer, P.W. (West) Division, Sangli reserves right to accept or reject any offer. Conditional offers will not be accepted.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost. (Rs. Lakh)	Class of Contractor	Remark
1	Construction of Building for Upgradation of Rural Hospital to Sub-District Hospital (30 beded to 50 beded) at Tasgaon Tal-Tasgaon Dist. Sangli (Civil + Electrical)	1755.36	Registrations of Contractor with PWD not required.	

Period of download of Tenders	From: 12.06.2024 to 27.06.2024	
Pre-Bid Meeting	18.06.2024 Time 12.30 hrs. Superintending Engineer P. W. Circle, Kolhapur.	
Opening of tenders	Date: 28.06.2024 Time: 15.00	Superintending Engineer P. W. Circle, Kolhapur.

Sd/-
MILIND SHASHIKANT KULKARNI
(M.S.Kulkarni)
Executive Engineer,
Public Works (West) Division,
Sangli.

DGIPR/2023-2024/165

J BG-BGE

From Page One

Sarod maestro Rajeev Taranath passes away

Pandit Rajeev Taranath FILE PHOTO

He added another feather to his academic cap by securing the first rank with a gold medal in MA (English) from the University of Mysore in 1962.

He secured a PhD in "Image in Poetry of T.S. Eliot" under the guidance of Prof. C.D. Narasimhaiah from the University of Mysore.

He began his teaching career as a lecturer at the Hamdard College in Raichur built by his father before teaching at various institutions such as Karnatak College in Dharwad, Regional College of Education in Mysuru, Regional College of Engineering and Jamal Mohammed College in Tiruchi, before heading the English Department in Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages in Hyderabad and teaching English in Yemen.

Pandit Rajeev Taranath was also the music director to a number of Kannada movies, including *Samskara, Pallavi, Anuroopa, Paper Boats,* and *Agunthaka*, besides Malayalam movies such as *Kadavu* and *Kanchana Sita*.

Condolences started pouring in for Pandit Rajeev Taranath. Mr. Mahadevappa and Minister for Kannada and Culture Shivaraj Tangadagi have condoled the death of the well-known Indian classical music exponent.

Parks in city to remain open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The new timings will not be applicable to Cubbon Park, says Shivakumar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday announced that all 1,200 neighbourhood parks in Bengaluru will remain open for 17 hours a day – from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. – on all days.

Mr. Shivakumar, who also holds the portfolio of Bengaluru City Development, said that extending the park timings was a long-pending demand of citizens. At present parks are open only during certain hours of the day. There was a request to keep these public places open even in the afternoon. Now, most of the parks remain open from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. and from 3.30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

However, the new timings are not applicable to Cubbon Park, which comes under the Horticulture Department, he said.

He directed the civic body to fix all dysfunctional street lights and deploy security personnel to guard open spaces to prevent any anti-social activity.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds the portfolio of Bengaluru City Development, on Tuesday said that extending the park timings was a long-pending demand of citizens. FILE PHOTO

A few residents' associations have complained that students would skip classes and spend time in parks in the afternoons when there are few walkers. It was also found that students celebrate the birthdays of their classmates and friends in parks.

Mr. Shivakumar claimed that the extension of hours would also help government or private firm employees to use the parks.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to fix dysfunctional street lights in all parks and on roads. Authorities had also fixed cameras at the entrances of all parks, he said. Residents can complain to the BBMP by calling the helpline numbers 22660000 or 22221188 and also provide information on WhatsApp number 9480685700.

Mr. Shivakumar launched a 'mapathon' to enable the BBMP to actively involve local community members to identify potential green spaces on empty sites. A pilot project is being planned in the Bommanahalli zone and more details would be published on the BBMP website soon, he said.

On the progress of the tree census, Mr. Shivakumar said a total of 94,000 trees had been enumerated so far in two wards of Vidyapeetha and Kathriguppe in Bommanahalli Zone, The survey would be completed by the end of 2024.

Environment Day

The BBMP would organise a programme to mark World Environment Day on Friday at Bal Bhavan in the city. More than two lakh plants would be planted. The programme could not be held on June 5 owing to the enforcement of the model code of conduct, he said.

The BBMP has planned to involve more schoolchildren to reach the target of planting the saplings. The civic body planted 52,000 saplings in 2023 by involving close to 250 schools, Mr. Shivakumar said.

Three juveniles detained in house break-in case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

According to the police, a minor girl allegedly roped in her two friends and hatched a plan to burgle her house

The police probing a house break-in reported at Parappana Agarahara have detained three juveniles, including a minor girl, who allegedly roped in her two friends and hatched a plan to burgle her house.

Based on a complaint, the police began probing the incident and analysed footage from as many as 60 cameras to find that a burkha-clad person had burgled the house. Further verification of the footage revealed that the suspect was found speaking to a girl.

The police cross-checked with local residents before zeroing in on three minors, including a girl, for allegedly hatching a house break-in plan in her house. Inquiries revealed that the girl had misused the ATM card of her grandmother and withdrawn money for her personal use. The family used to heckle her all the time which led the girl to hatch the plan to "teach them a lesson", said the police.

As per the plan, she roped in two of her minor friends and informed them about the family going out and about the place where the key was kept, according to the police.

380 gm gold valuables

As per the plan, the burkha-clad minor boy took the key, entered the house and stole 380 grams of gold valuables total worth ₹24.5 lakh. The accused had planned to dispose of the valuables and handed over a part of the gold to one of their tuition teachers with a request to sell the gold and give them money, claiming that the father of one of the minors was an alcoholic and was not taking care of the house.

Based on their confession, the police recovered the gold valuables and approached the juvenile justice board for further procedure.

No power supply today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There will be no power supply on Wednesday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the areas serviced from 66/11-kV MEI Layout sub-stations for carrying out annual maintenance works.

According to a release from Bescom, North Circle, the areas to be affected are: AGBG Layout, Shettihalli, Mallasandra, Junjappa Circle, Nandana Nagar, Kaveri Layout, Sapthagiri College, Judges Layout, Hesarghatta Main Road, 8th Mile, Tumakuru Main Road, Maheshwarinagar, Kempegowda Nagar, K.K. Road, areas behind T. Dasarahalli metro station, Pipeline Road, Brindavana Layout, Kalyananagar, Bagalagunte, Kirloskar Layout, NMH Layout, Soundarya Layout, Meenakshi Layout, Chikkabanavara, Somashettiyhalli, Kereguddahalli, Medarahalli, and Guniagrahara.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (ni-msme)
(An Organization of the Ministry of MSME, GoI & ISO 9001:2015 Certified)
Yousufguda, Hyderabad-500045, Telangana State.
Ph.No.040-23633213/210, E-mail: nimsme-admn@nimsme.org

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION
Advertisement No.ni-msme/vacancies/CFI/2024/01, Date 07.06.2024

S. No.	Name of the Post	No.of Post	Age on 01.01.2024	Monthly Remuneration	Important Information
1	Vertical Heads - Research & Publications; Capacity Building & Consultancy	02	40-58 years	Rs.1,00,000/-	1) For all details, please visit the official website. www.nimsme.org
2	Subject Matter Experts – Research & Publications; Capacity Building & Consultancy	02	35-58 years	Rs.50,000/-	2) Last date for submission of application is 23.06.2024
3	Young Professional	02	Up to 30 years	Rs.25,000/-	3) Filled Application send to: cfirecruitment@nimsme.org

Sd/- Admin. & Accounts Officer

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: CAO/CN/BNC/12/2024
Dated : 07.06.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Proposed construction of New quarters Type-II (10 Units in Hubballi, 4 in Kundgol, 4 Units in Saunshi, 4 Units in Gudgeri, 2 Units in Yalvigi total - 24 Units G+2), Type-III (4 Units G+2 at Hubballi), Type IV (4 Units G+2 at Hubballi) & Type V (2 Units at Hubballi), O/o Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/I at Hubballi, PWI/IOW/SSE Electrical/CSI/Store and Misc. Office at (Kundgol, Saunshi, Gudgeri, Yalvigi Station). (Tender Ref. No.: UBL-66)	Rs. 21,28,39,620/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs on 27-06-2024
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer / Construction / Works
Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/151/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: CAO/CN/BNC/EPC/11/2024
Dated : 06.06.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Construction of a new broad gauge railway line between Malugur (Chainage (-) 831.6 (Ch:109200 of Yelahanka - Penukonda)) to Palasamudram (Chainage 17/150) including 02 new yards (Chalivendala & Palasamudram) and Existing Malugur Yard modification with a route length of 17.981 Km including Signal & Telecommunication, Electrification & Electrical General Service works. (Tender Ref. No.: MLU-PALASAMUDRAM-EPC-01R)	Rs. 283,20,51,034/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs on 04-10-2024
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer / Construction / Works
Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/150/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KAVITA, W/o. Maneesh Kumar, R/O. B1102, Godrej Nurture, Electronic City, Blr–100, have changed my name to Kavita Mehta vide afdvt dtd 08/06/24

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-66)
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 6807 OF 2022
Hg. 15/07/2024

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd,
A body corporate incorporated And registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at:
"Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007
And having its Regional office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 11th Floor, C-Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. And represented by its POA Holder, Mr. M Rohit Ali, S/o Ishrath Ali M, Aged about 25 years, ...PLAINTIFF
AND:
Mr. Madhusudhan Nayak, S/o Debanand Nayak, Aged about 45 years, R/a No -13, 1st Cross, Yallamma Gan, Sidebalaji Nagar, Hebbagodi, Near Biocon, Bengaluru- 560 099. ...DEFENDANT

Summons/Notice through Paper Publication

Defendant
Mr. Madhusudhan Nayak, S/o Debanand Nayak, Aged about 45 years, R/a No -13, 1st Cross, Yallamma Gan, Sidebalaji Nagar, Hebbagodi, Near Biocon, Bengaluru- 560 099. ...DEFENDANT

WHEREAS the above named Plaintiff has instituted case against you for recovery loan amount Rs. 4,26,804/- together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization.
You are hereby summorted to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or by a advocate/pleader on pleader on 15th day of July, 2024 at 11.00 A.M to answer the questions of the same. Failing which the matter will be heard and determined as "EX-PARTE".
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 03rd day of June, 2024.

By The Order Of The Court
Senior Registrar City Civil Court Bangalore

Advocate for Plaintiff
Mr. K.N. Arvinda Navada
Advocate
No. 177/1, (88), 1st Floor,
Besides 12th Cross,
Cubbonpet Main Road,
Bengaluru-560 002.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, CHANDRASHEKHARA. V, S/o Venkataramanappa, R/at No.89, Kanakapura Main Road, SLV Layout, OB Chudahalli, Udayapura, Bengaluru -560082, have changed my name from Chandrashekhara.V to Chandrashekar Venkataramanappa vide affidavit dated 11/06/2024 before Gangaraju.B.N, Bengaluru.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, VARUN Siddarajaiah s/o Siddarajaiah residing at #294, 11th Cross, Hoysala Nagara, Bangalore North, Viswaneedam post Bangalore - 560091 here by declare that Varun Siddaraju and Varun Siddarajaiah both name belongs to me only. Hence forth I shall be known and called as Varun Siddarajaiah only for all legal purposes, Vide affidavit dated 05-06-2024 sworn before notary Gangaraja.C.B, Bangalore

I, PANDANDA Uthappa Kuttappa s/o Uthappa R/A Yavakapadi PO Kodagu - 571212, have announced to Pandanda Uthappa (Surname) Kuttappa (Given name) vide affidavit dated 10-06-2024 before notary L.Puttaraju, B.A,LL.B, Bangalore-560078.

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

PLACEMENTS IN DUBAI FOR MBA MARKETING AND HR WITH 12L to 18L CTC IN 90 DAYS WITH TRAINING. CALL US ON 89512 65627

TENDERS

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY
TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT
NO. 1 RAJAJI SALAI, CHENNAI-1

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
NO.C6/363/2024/T dt.12.06.2024

Notice for e-Tender Cum e-Auction for allotment of areas situated at Chennai Port, inside the custom bound area, for the purpose of Handling Liquid Bulk Cargo and its allied activities, by erecting temporary tank farm structures for the operational needs, for a period of 5 years on Annual Licence basis in as is where is condition without renewal option, under two cover system from 12.06.2024 to 02.07.2024.

For further details visit Ch.P.A. website **www.chennaiport.gov.in** and **www.eprocure.gov.in**

TRAFFIC MANAGER

WAPCOS LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Development of Kovalam & adjacent beaches in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala (Funded by KIIFB)
Estimated Cost (Excl. GST) Rs. 43,54,30,000/-)
Last date: 06.08.2024, 01:00 PM
Pre-bid: 02.07.2024, 11:00 AM
For details:
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in, www.wapcos.co.in, www.eprocure.gov.in

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LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE HON'BLE III-ADDITIONAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS COURT, POONAMALLEE
O.S. No. 540 of 2023

Mrs. Likhitha Devireddy,
D/o. D Madhusudhana Reddy,
Represented by her power agent,
D. Madhusudhana Reddy
3097, Tower 38, Prestige Bella vista,
Iyyappanthangal, Chennai 600056
...Plaintif

Vs

1. STSK PropTech Private Limited
Director Mr Kattappa Sivakumar,
AWIFIS SPERO PRIMUS
Primus Building Door No.SP 7A,
Guindy Industrial Estate, SIDCO
Chennai-600032.
2. Mr Kattappa Sivakumar
Director,
STSK PropTech Private Limited
AWIFIS SPERO PRIMUS
Primus Building Door No.SP 7A,
Guindy Industrial Estate, SIDCO
Chennai-600032.
3. Mrs Bincy Puzhaikkalpura Venugopalan Director,
STSK PropTech Private Limited
AWIFIS SPERO PRIMUS
Primus Building Door No.SP 7A,
Guindy Industrial Estate, SIDCO
Chennai-600032.
Also at
No.196/6/2, Lava Kusha Edifice,
Lava Kusha Nagar,
Beratena Agrahara, Housur Road,
Electronic City, Bangalore KA 560100.
4. Mrs. S.T.Cleopatra
W/o. R Srinivasan
Flat No. 6042, Prestige Bella Vista Apartment,
Mount Poonamalle Road,
Ayyappanthangal,
Kancheepuram Dist Chennai-600056
Presently at
No 39/16 Mania Kollai Street,
Aminjikarai, Chennai 600029.
...Defendants

To
1.STSK PropTech Private Limited
Director Mr Kattappa Sivakumar,
AWIFIS SPERO PRIMUS
Primus Building Door No.SP 7A,
Guindy Industrial Estate, SIDCO
Chennai-600032.
2.Mr Kattappa Sivakumar
Director,
STSK PropTech Private Limited
AWIFIS SPERO PRIMUS
Primus Building Door No.SP 7A,
Guindy Industrial Estate, SIDCO
Chennai-600032.
3.Mrs Bincy Puzhaikkalpura Venugopalan Director,
STSK PropTech Private Limited
AWIFIS SPERO PRIMUS
Primus Building Door No.SP 7A,
Guindy Industrial Estate, SIDCO
Chennai-600032.
Also at
No.196/6/2, Lava Kusha Edifice,
Lava Kusha Nagar,
Beratena Agrahara, Housur Road,
Electronic City, Bangalore KA 560100.

In the above suit, the Hon'ble III-Additional District And Sessions Court, Poonamallee was pleased to order notice to you, returnable by 21.06.2024.

Please take notice and appear before the Hon'ble III-Additional District And Sessions Court, Poonamallee at 10.30 A.M. on 21.06.2024, either in person or through counsel, failing which the matter will be heard and disposed of in your absence.

M/s.C.Vidhusan
Advocate
COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF

BEFORE THE HON'BLE CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BENGALURU
(CCH-25)
Original Suit No. 1656 of 2024

BETWEEN: Maverick Property Investments Private Limited A company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 Having registered office at #583, 9th Main, Off CMH Road, Indiranagar, Bangalore – 560 038. Represented by its Authorised Representative Mr. Kiran Poonacha ... **Plaintiff**

AND: Sri Harish Kumar .M & Ors. ...**Defendants**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANTS NOS. 10 – 12 UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 (1A) OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, 1908

To 1. Sri N. Gurappa, Son of Late Mariyappa, aged about 71 years Residing at Belagere Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk ... **Defendant No. 10**

2. Sri. Narayana Swamy, Son of N Gurappa, aged about 51 years, Residing at Belagere Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk ... **Defendant no. 11**

3. Sri. Venkatesh, Son of N. Gurappa, aged about 46 years, Residing at Siddapura Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk ... **Defendant no. 12**

Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking judgement and decree to:

a. Declare that the Plaintiff is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property:

b. Consequently, declare that the Partition deed dated 10/11/2022 bearing number Book-I-10315/22-23 and the rectification deed dated 21/11/2022 bearing number Book-I-10647/22-23 executed between Defendant No. 1,4 and 7 as null, void and not binding on the Plaintiff in respect of the Schedule Property

c. Consequently, declare the Agreement of Sale dated 28/02/2023 bearing number Book-I-15241/2022-23 executed by Defendant No. 1 to 3 in favour of Defendant no. 8 and 9 as null, void, and not binding on the Plaintiff.

d. Consequently, declare the Agreement of Sale dated 28/02/2023 bearing number Book-I-15235/2022-23 executed by the Defendant no. 4 to Defendant no. 6 in favour of Defendant No. 8 and 9 as null, void and not binding on the Plaintiff

e. Consequently, declare the Irrevocable Power of Attorney dated 27/09/2010 bearing number BNG(U)-VRT-233IV/2010-11 executed by Defendant No. 10 to 12 in favour of Defendant no. 13 as null, void, and not binding on the Plaintiff

f. Consequently, declare the Agreement of Sale without possession dated 02/02/2022 bearing number KRI-I-11655-2021-22 executed by Defendant No. 13 in favour of Defendant no. 14 as null, void, and not binding on the Plaintiff

g. Permanent injunction restraining the Defendants from interfering with Plaintiff Possession and enjoyment of the Schedule Property.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the CCH – 25, III Addl. City Civil and Sessions Judge at Bangalore in person or by pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on **13/06/2024** at **11:00 AM** take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing in Sy. No. 52 measuring 3 Acres 8 Guntas situated in Thubarahalli, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk and bounded on the: **East by:** Property belonging to Mariyappa in Sy. No. 51/2, **West by:** Property belongs to Venkatappa, **North by:** Private Property, **South by:** Land belongs to Narayanaswamy

Given under my hand and seal of this Court, this 6th day of June 2024

By order of this Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff: **Rohan Tigadi**
T Law Chambers
Unit no. 304, 'A' Block, St. Patrick's Complex, Brigade Road, Bengaluru – 560 025
Phone no: +91 8890111461

REGIONAL FOOD RESEARCH & ANALYSIS CENTRE
An Autonomous Organization of Department of Horticulture & Food Processing
Udyan Bhawan Campus, 2 Sapru Marg, Lucknow-226001 (U.P)

ORGANIC AND HYDROPONIC FARMING
EARN MONEY FROM YOUR HOME ROOFTOP
FEES: Rs. 2,500/- (ONLINE) Date: 15th & 16th June, 2024 Time: 5.00 PM to 8.00 PM
CONTENTS:- What is Organic, Hydroponic & Aquaponic farming, Business Scope in Organic & Hydroponics, Seeding with Soil less Media, Soil Testing Process, Soil Manure & Nutrients, Waste decomposition, Vermicomposting, Rooftop Cultivation, Multilevel Cultivation, Mushroom Farming and its various types, Business prospects in Mushroom Farming, Hydroponics Cultivation and its types, EC/PH/TDS of Water, Hydroponics Nutrients management, Designing of Polyhouse, Net House & Tunnel House, Organic registration (PGS) and much more. LIMITED SEATS
M.: 8178836164, 9811047670, 9599713406
E-CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED, Website: www.rfracgov.in

REGIONAL FOOD RESEARCH & ANALYSIS CENTRE
An Autonomous Organization of Department of Horticulture & Food Processing
Udyan Bhawan Campus, 2 Sapru Marg, Lucknow-226001 (U.P)

HOW TO EARN MONEY & DEVELOP BUSINESS IN FOOD TECHNOLOGY & CLOUD KITCHEN
FEES: Rs. 2,500/- (ONLINE) Date: 15th & 16th June, 2024 Time: 5.00 PM to 8.00 PM
CONTENTS:- How to start a cloud kitchen. Difference between cloud kitchen and normal restaurant kitchen. Licence and regulations. Kitchen equipment, raw material and packaging systems. Staff requirement and job pattern. Implementation of the project. Budgeting and costing. Software and web solutions. Digital Marketing. Customer support and future expansions Integration with online portals as Zomato and Swiggy. Pre requisites to enter Food Business, Food safety act, Food safety to be followed in industry, Food entrepreneurship, Possible food businesses, Certifications needed, Mandatory rules to be followed, Food business operations, Food processing technologies- fruits vegetables, meat, fish, poultry, dairy and dairy products, Bakery, Namkeen and confectionery, Packaging technology, Laboratory testing for food and water. Branding and marketing of food products. LIMITED SEATS
M.: 8178836164, 9811047670, 9599713406
E-CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED, Website: www.rfracgov.in

BEFORE THE 85th ADDL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, BANGALORE
Com OS 418/2024 (CCH-86)

BETWEEN : M/S Pleasant Valley Development Pvt Ltd, A company registered under the Provisions of the Companies Act Having its registered office at No 102, Embassy Palace, Cunnigham Road, 560052 Represented by its authorised signatory Jagadish V. ....**Plaintiff**

AND : 1. M/s New Deccan International, No 42, 2nd Main Road, Dollars Layout, 4th Phase, J.PNagar, Bangalore-560082, Represented by it's Director HP Ravindra.
Also having office at: No.825, Das Commercial Complex, Kanakpura Road, 7th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560082.

2. M/s Lemon Pepper Hospitality Private Limited, A company incorporated under the Companies Act 2013 At No 30, Old No 1, 2nd Floor, Church Street, Civil Station, Bengaluru-560001, Represented by its Director. ....**Defendants**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT NO 2 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To, M/s Lemon Pepper Hospitality Private Limited, A company incorporated under the Companies Act 2013 At No 30, Old No 1, 2nd Floor, Church Street, Civil Station, Bengaluru-560001, Represented by its Director.

Whereas the above named Plaintiff has instituted a suit under Order VII Rule 1 r.w S 151 CPC against the Defendants seeking a decree directing the Defendants to deliver vacant possession of the Suit Schedule Property, pay rent arrears, interest and such other relief. You are hereby summoned to appear in person or through a pleader duly instructed before the LXXXV ADDL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, BANGALORE.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the **27th day of July 2024,** the suit will be heard and determined in your absence, placing you as ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court, this **5th day of June 2024.**

By order of the court, Senior Sheristedar Commercial court, Bangalore

Advocate for Plaintiff
Sri S Guru Prasanna
D-03, 3rd Floor, 'SOLUS', Jain Heights,
1st Cross, J C Road, Bengaluru- 560027
Ph: 9902025246.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client **Sri.Sanjay R S/o.M.S. Ramamurthy** residents of K. Narayanapura intends to purchase property bearing site No.606, BDA Khatha No.BDA/RO/North /606/2015-16 Arkavathi Layout 6th Block, Bangalore, measuring East to West **12.00 meter** and North to South **18.00 meter**, in all measuring **216 Sq. Mtrs** carved in Sy.No. 21 of **K. Narayanapura Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk**, bounded on : **East by :** Site No.607, **West by :** Site No.605, **North by :** Road and **South by** : Private property from **Sri. Praveen S.N. S/o Nanje Gowda,** residing at No.52, Munisonne Gowda Layout, Thanisandra Near Over Head Water Tank, Dr.Shivaramakaranth Nagar Post, Bengaluru-77. Our client by entering into registered Agreement of Sale dated : 30-5-2024 vide Document No.BNS-1-03486/2024-25 dated 31-5-2024 in respect of above property with Sri. Praveen S.N. Any persons having any right, title, claim, lien, mortgage, charge or documents or conveyance over the schedule property may lodge their objections/ claims with documentary proof within **15 days** from date of publication to the undersigned. In the absence of any claims/objection with documents within the above said period, it shall be deemed that there is no such claims/objection or that if there are any claims and that they have not been made, it shall be deemed to have been waived and our client will proceed in purchasing the schedule property mentioned above.

K.V. Keshava, Sanketh K.K., Poojya
Advocates
No. 121/5&6 "OM Complex" Opposite Kamath Hotel, Avenue Road, Bengaluru-02.
Mob : 9448059626. Mail-kvkskk84@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that our client is negotiating to purchase the properties described in the schedule below from Sri. Sha Bra. Chandramouleshwara Shivacharya Mahaswamigalu, Mataadipati of Sri Ramalingeshwara Mutt, Haranahalli, Shivamogga Taluk and District.

If any persons, financial institution, partnership firm or body corporate has any claims or objections for the sale, they may notify the same to the undersigned herein, together with supporting documents within **ten days** from the date of publication of this notice.

If no claims are received, our client will treat that the properties are free from claims of any nature and proceed to complete the sale transaction.

Schedule

1. All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy. No.102, situated at Singapura Village, Hessarghatta Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, measuring 9 acres out of 66 acres and 18 guntas.
2. All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy. No. 294, situated at Gunjur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, measuring 6 acres 26 guntas.
3. All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy. Nos.8/1 & 8/3, situated at Nagasandra Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Tumkur Road, measuring 6 Acres 38 guntas and 2 Acres 03 Guntas respectively.

M/s Chalapathy & Srinivas, Advocates
No. 21/22, 2nd and 3rd floors, Krishna Towers, 3rd main road, Gandhinagar, Bangalore- 560 009.

Himachal Pradesh Road and other Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited
State Roads Project, Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar Shimla-171002
Fax: 0177-2620663; Tel: 0177-2620663/2627602 , E-mail: pdsrp-hp@nic.in

NOTICE INVITING BID

The Director (Projects), HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla – 171002, Himachal Pradesh India Invites the Request for Proposal (RFP) from Project Management Consultants for Consultancy Services for "Project Management and Construction Supervision Consultant" (PMC) for construction of a tunnel from IGMC Junction to IPH Pump house near St. Bede's college under EPC mode"

Sl. no	Name of Work	Total Duration of Project	Tender fee (in Rs)	Date of Availability of Request for Proposal on HPRIDCL web Site	Last Date/Time for Submission of Proposal / Opening of Proposals
1.	Consultancy Services for "Project Management and Construction Supervision Consultant" (PMC) for construction of a tunnel from IGMC Junction to IPH Pump house near St. Bede's college under EPC mode"	42 Months (Project Preparation – 6 months, Implementation Period - 24 Months and Maintenance Period – 12 months)	Rs 10000 + 18% GST	June 18, 2024	July 18, 2024 at 15:00/15:30 hours (IST)

RFP will be available on the official web site of HPRIDCL under link http://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html .
Any further addendum/Corrigendum to this Request for Proposal document shall be available to all interesting firms on the same web site link. Proposal must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by post) by **July 18, 2024 at 15:00 hours (IST)** positively.

Note:
1. Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained.
2. Please note that the Executing Agency reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the BIDs without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Director, (Projects)
HPRIDCL NirmanBhawan, Nigam Vihar, Shimla - 171002

HP/ 0037/2024-2025

New portable atomic clock offers very accurate timekeeping at sea

Researchers have build a portable optical atomic clock that can be used onboard ships. While it traded some accuracy for size and robustness, it was still more accurate than other vessel-borne timekeeping options. According to the researchers, it is the most performant optical clock at sea

Tejasri Gururaj

A server rack containing three independent optical clocks, a 1-U power supply, a control laptop for each clock, an uninterruptable power supply, and a measurement system were loaded in a total rack volume of 23 U. The cargo container housing the rack was craned onto the deck of the HMNZS Aotearoa, where it remained for a three-week naval exercise. NATURE 628, PAGES 736–740 (2024)

Atomic clocks are the backbone of the Global Positioning System (GPS), the network of satellites above the earth that we use every day to navigate cities, respond to emergencies, and organise military operations, among other things.

Despite being one of the most accurate timekeeping methods, however, there is still room for improvement. Scientists today are pushing the boundaries with a new technology called optical atomic clocks.

But for being such sophisticated instruments, both these clocks are also bulky, power-hungry, fragile, and expensive. As a result, their installation and operations are often restricted to big research facilities.

A study recently published in the journal *Nature* introduced a kind of portable optical atomic clock that can be used onboard ships. While these devices traded some accuracy for size and robustness, they were still more accurate than other vessel-borne timekeeping options.

According to the researchers, this is the most performant optical clock based at sea and represents a significant advancement in optical timekeeping.

The working of an atomic clock

Atomic clocks work by keeping time using atoms. One popular design uses atoms of an isotope of caesium, Cs-133. The International Committee for Weights and Measures first used it in 1967 to define the duration of one second. India also uses a Cs-133 atomic clock to define the second for timekeeping within its borders.

Cs-133 is a highly stable atom and is found naturally, which is why it is so commonly used in atomic clocks.

Atomic clocks exploit a fundamental property of all atoms: their ability to jump between different energy levels. Energy levels are like the steps of a ladder. An atom climbs up the ladder by absorbing energy, like electromagnetic radiation.

In a Cs atomic clock, the energy needed for the atom to jump to a higher energy level matches the frequency of microwave radiation. This frequency is related in some fully understood way to the duration of a second.

First, researchers keep the Cs atoms in a cavity, to which microwave radiation of a specific frequency is applied. When the frequency of this radiation matches the transition energy of the Cs atoms, the match-up is called a resonance.

The Cs-133 atoms absorb this radiation and jump to a higher energy level. This transition only happens when the frequency of the applied radiation is equal to 9,192,631,770 Hz.

Put another way, when the Cs-133 atom completes 9,192,631,770 oscillations between the two energy levels, one second will have passed.

The accuracy of atomic clocks comes from a feedback mechanism that detects any changes in the resonance frequency and adjusts the microwave radiation to maintain resonance.

Thus, a caesium atomic clock loses or gains a second every 1.4 million years.

Optical atomic clocks use lasers

Optical atomic clocks are even more accurate. While they have the same working principle, the resonance frequency here is in the optical range. Radiation in this range includes visible light (to humans) and ultraviolet and infrared radiation.

As part of an optical atomic clock, researchers use lasers to stimulate atomic transitions. The lasers' light is highly coherent: the emitted light waves all have the same frequency and their wavelengths are related to each other in a way that doesn't change. The result is light with more precise properties and great stability.

Optical atomic clocks use coherent light to achieve higher accuracy in two main ways.

The first is the higher operating frequency of atomic clocks. Say we have two clocks, A and B. A has a higher operating frequency than that of B – which means A will complete more oscillations than B in the same time.

As a result, A will be able measure smaller increments of time more accurately because it has more cycles to count within that time frame.

The second reason is that optical atomic clocks have much narrower linewidths. The linewidth is the range of frequencies over which the transition occurs. The narrower the linewidth, the easier it is to tune the frequency of the optical light that produces the resonance. This leads to higher accuracy because it enables more precise changes.

The most commonly used atom in optical atomic clocks is strontium (Sr): it has narrow linewidths and stable optical transitions.

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, are working on a strontium optical atomic clock. Their peers at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics in the same city are developing a similar clock with ytterbium ions. These devices, once ready, will bring precision timekeeping in India to the optical regime.

Building a portable device

The researchers in the *Nature* study developed an optical atomic clock that uses molecular iodine as the frequency standard.

Traditional optical atomic clocks are large and not easy to transport. Scientists have previously attempted to make them portable. Those in the new study wished to fit them within a standardised rack, of the sort used in data centres, laboratories, and telecommunications facilities.

To do this, the team miniaturised the clock's spectrometer, laser system, and frequency comb.

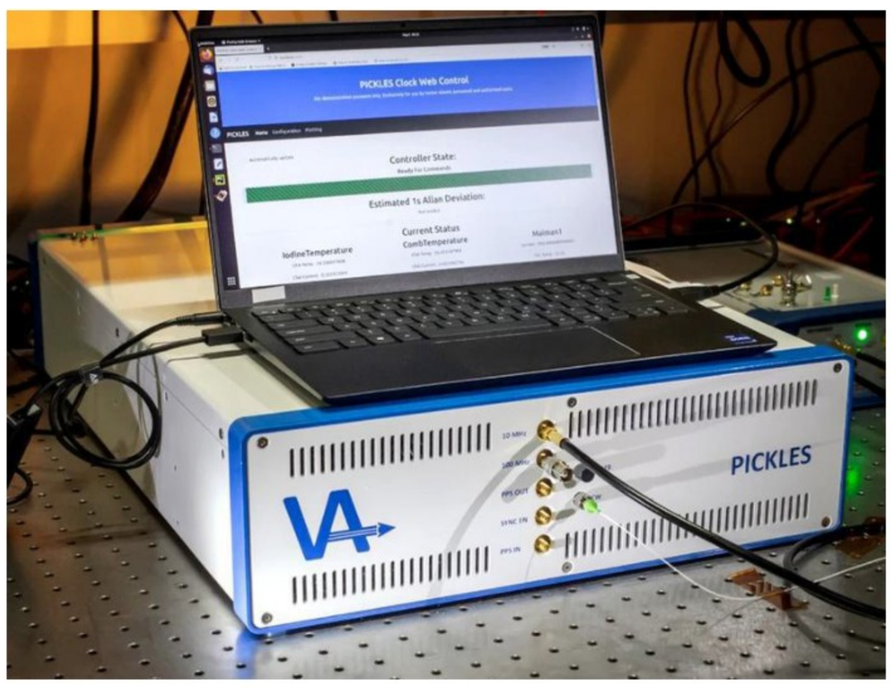
The spectrometer, used to measure the frequencies of transitions, was designed to have a volume of 2.5 litres. The laser system was built using optical fibres – slender, flexible, transparent cables made of glass or plastic and which can transmit light over long distances. The system thus had a volume of only 1 litre, and operated with light of wavelength 1,064 nm.

> Despite the ship's motion, a temperature fluctuation of 2-3 degrees C, and 4-5% changes in humidity, the clocks were nearly as stable as they were in laboratory conditions for up to 1,000 s at a time

A frequency comb is a device that generates a series of equally spaced optical frequencies. This provides a stable and accurate reference for tracking the atomic transitions and generating precise optical frequencies. The frequency comb occupied a volume of 0.5 litres.

The researchers also equipped the clock with a software control system that could autonomously initialise the clock from an 'off' state to a fully operational state. It monitors temperature, identifies specific transitions, activates some components, and ensures the system stays stable by continuously checking for problems.

As a result, the final clock had a total volume of 35 litres – about the size of a large backpack. It weighed around 26 kg and consumed 85 W of power, which is just above the consumption of an incandescent light bulb.



The 3U, 19-inch rackmount iodine optical clock occupies a volume of 35 litres and consumes less than 100 W. NATURE 628, PAGES 736–740 (2024)

Optical atomic clocks at sea

The researchers conducted initial tests at the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in April 2022. They operated two prototypes, called PICKLES and EPIC, autonomously for 34 days. The optical atomic clocks' accuracy fluctuated less over short periods, outperforming NIST's hydrogen maser ST05, one of the world's most accurate and stable atomic clocks, which is based on hydrogen atoms.

The optical atomic clocks also had 10x lower long-term drift compared to rubidium atomic clocks. This means that over long periods, the rate at which the clock's frequency changes is much lower compared to changes in rubidium atomic clocks. It is a sign of the compact clock's high stability.

The researchers also deployed the two clocks plus another, called VIPER, on a boat at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii to test them at sea. VIPER was built with a smaller spectrometer and a more simplified laser design.

Despite the ship's motion, a temperature fluctuation of 2-3 degrees C, and 4-5% changes in humidity, the clocks were nearly as stable as they were in laboratory conditions for up to 1,000 s at a time. When operated for more than a lakh seconds at a time, the clock was still highly stable but also more susceptible to being affected by temperature fluctuations.

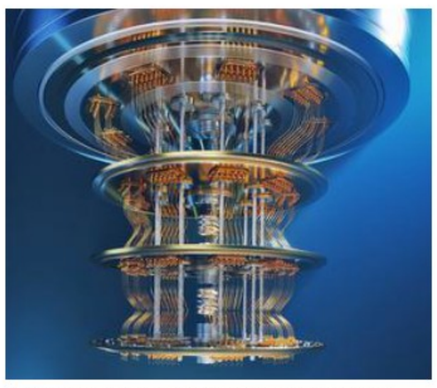
Accuracy trade-offs and applications

Atomic clocks are prized for their accuracy, losing or gaining just one second over 300 million years. Optical atomic clocks only lose or gain a second over 300 billion years.

The new iodine clock isn't as accurate as an optical atomic clock in the laboratory, trading it off for mobility and robustness. But it is still accurate enough to lose or gain a second only every 9.1 million years.

The development of such setups is a necessary first-step for their use for navigation, maritime communication, and scientific research. For example, they can now help monitor underwater seismic and volcanic activity with great precision. Onboard spacecraft, they can help scientists conduct experiments that test the theories of relativity and potentially reduce the cost of satellite-based navigation.

(Tejasri Gururaj is a freelance science writer and journalist with a master's degree in physics.)



Quantum computers will have transformative effects on electronics, clean energy, and drug development. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

UN declares 2025 the Year of Quantum Science

The Hindu Bureau

The United Nations has said 2025 will be designated the 'International Year of Quantum Science and Technology'. In a statement, the body said the initiative will be "year-long", "worldwide", and that it will "be observed through activities at all levels aimed at increasing public awareness of the importance of quantum science and applications."

The proclamation is the result of a resolution led by Mexico in May 2023 and which was soon joined by other countries. By November that year, almost 60 countries had co-sponsored the resolution and the UNESCO General Conference adopted it. In May this year, Ghana submitted a draft resolution to the U.N. General Assembly asking for an official proclamation, with the support of over 70 other countries. The General Assembly acceded on June 7.

The timing isn't entirely coincidental. Next year will be a century since the German physicist Werner Heisenberg published a famous paper in which he reinterpreted a series of tweaks – required for classical mechanics to make sense of the quantum phenomena being discovered in the late 19th and early 20th centuries – to lay the foundation stone of what would come to be called quantum mechanics. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for physics seven years later, roughly around the time he devised his famous uncertainty principle.

According to the UN statement, the proclamation has also received the endorsements of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, the International Union of Crystallography, and the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology.

Next year will be a century since the German physicist Werner Heisenberg published a famous paper laying the foundation stone of what would come to be called quantum mechanics

Quantum science and technologies have been featuring more often in public conversations and issues of late thanks to quantum computers. While fully operational machines of this type don't yet exist, researchers and industry experts believe it is a matter of time.

In line with this belief, the Government of India announced a 'National Quantum Mission' in April 2023 at a cost of Rs 6,000 crore, to be implemented from 2023 to 2031 by the Department of Science & Technology (DST). According to Akhilesh Gupta, a senior DST advisor and the head of the Mission, it will have four verticals: quantum computing, quantum communication, quantum sensing and metrology, and quantum materials and devices.

Many researchers expect functional quantum computers will have transformative effects on electronics, clean energy, and drug development, given their superior computational abilities.

According to the U.N. statement, its proclamation "is a signal for any individual, group, school, institution, or government to use 2025 as an opportunity to increase awareness about quantum science and technology." It added that a steering committee is also "planning global initiatives and events, particularly those that reach audiences unaware of the importance of quantum science and technology."

Physics World reported that an opening ceremony is expected to be conducted on January 14, 2025, in Berlin.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Share of Ministers in new Council aged between 51-70 years

66 in per cent. According to the Association for Democratic Reforms, 47 out of 71 Ministers in the newly formed government are aged between 51-70 years.
In the younger age brackets, 24% of the Ministers are aged between 31 and 50 years. PTI

Number of tanks to enhance water storage capacity in Karnataka

93 The State Minister for Minor Irrigation said that a Rs 100 crore grant from the State Disaster Mitigation Funds (SDMF) will be utilised to enhance the storage capacity of 93 tanks in the State in the first phase. Successful implementation will help mitigate water shortages in the future. PTI

Aid for war-ravaged Gaza pressed by emergency summit

2.5 In $ billion. Leaders at an emergency summit on Gaza's humanitarian crisis pleaded for greater aid access to the war-ravaged territory. Aid groups warn that conditions are worse than ever with virtually the whole population relying on sporadic aid deliveries. AFP

Amount of money approved to fund the UBI's business growth

10,000 in ₹ crore. Union Bank of India approved a proposal to raise ₹10,000 crore to fund its business growth. This would be subject to the approval of the government, other regulatory authorities and shareholders' approval. PTI

Number of new council of Ministers with criminal cases

28 Ministers in the government have criminal cases against them with 19 of these 28 Ministers facing serious charges such as attempted murder, crimes against women and hate speech, according to the Association of Democratic Reforms. PTI

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Bihar's call for special category status

How does special category status benefit States like Bihar? What specific criteria qualify a State for special category status? Why has Bihar's demand been a long-standing issue? What are the political implications of granting special status to Bihar?

EXPLAINER

Prashanth Perumal

The story so far:
Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has reiterated the State's long-standing demand to be granted the special category status by the Centre, a move that would increase the amount of tax revenues that the State gets from the Centre. The demand for special category status right now is significant because Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) depends on support from Mr. Kumar's Janata Dal (United), which has 12 seats in the new Lok Sabha, to hold on to power at the Centre. Notably, the Bihar Cabinet had passed a resolution late last year demanding special category status to the State.

What is the special category status?
The special category status was introduced in 1969 based on the recommendations of the Fifth Finance Commission. The intent was to help States that are disadvantaged in terms of their geographic, social or economic status to improve their position on par with other, more developed Indian States.

Criteria such as having a hilly terrain and a sizable tribal population can entitle a State to be granted the special category status. A State that is granted the special category status would be able to claim more funds from the Centre than otherwise and can also enjoy various tax-related concessions.

For example, a State with special category status would receive 90% of funds from the Centre when it comes to schemes sponsored by the Union government, as against other States which receive only around 60% to 80% of funds from the Centre.

Initially, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam and Nagaland were granted the special category status to aid their economic development. Subsequently, eight other States including Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand were granted the special status. Thus, 11 out of 28 States, or more than a third of Indian States, already enjoy the special category status.

Why is Bihar demanding the special category status?
Bihar's politicians, including its current Chief Minister, have for a long time demanded special category status for the State pointing to its economic backwardness. Bihar's per capita income of around ₹60,000 is among the lowest in the country and the State lags behind the national average in several human development indicators as well.

Bihar has also noted that the State's fiscal situation has been adversely affected by the bifurcation of the State that caused industries to move to Jharkhand, lack of sufficient water resources for irrigation, and frequent natural disasters.

The most recent Bihar caste based survey of 2022 indicates that nearly a third of the State's people live under the poverty line.

Union governments headed by both the BJP and the Congress, however, have been unwilling to grant any special status to Bihar and several other States due to the increased burden it would put on the Centre's finances.

Particularly, it has been noted that there is now greater devolution of taxes to the States from 32% of the total divisible pool to 42% based on the recommendation of the Fourteenth Finance Commission. Hence, the demand for special category status from Bihar is simply seen as a ploy by State governments to demand even more funds from the Centre.

The Centre may also fear that granting the special category status to certain States will encourage others to demand the same from the Centre. It should also be noted that political considerations play a large role in the granting of special status to States. States with better political bargaining power with the Centre may manage to receive more funds either through a special status or by other means.

Further, there is the risk that political parties vying for power at the Centre may compete to either gain or stay in power by promising to grant special status to certain States.

The Congress party, for instance, in its 2024 election manifesto promised to grant the special category status to Bihar if it comes to power. Such competitive populism can lead to a worsening of the Centre's finances.

Does Bihar need the special category status?
Politicians at the State level generally have an incentive to compete for funds from the Centre as this would allow them to spend more. So it is not surprising that not just Bihar but many other States too, including Andhra Pradesh which is now ruled by the BJP's ally Telugu Desam Party and Odisha which is prone to floods and has a significant tribal population, have demanded the special category status that would entitle them to more funds from the Centre's treasury.

In fact, TDP leader N. Chandrababu Naidu pulled his party out of the National Democratic Alliance government before the 2019 general election over the issue of granting special category status to the State.

Mr. Naidu wanted special status to compensate for the decrease in tax revenues as a result of his State's loss of Hyderabad to Telangana.

Bihar's economic backwardness has been cited as the primary reason for the need for the granting of the special category status to the State.

Many analysts say this demand based on economic backwardness is very well justified as they believe that the State government will have to spend on welfare projects to uplift the poor and to invest in boosting the State's infrastructure. The Bihar government last year estimated that the granting of the special category status will help the State receive an additional 2.5 lakh crore rupees over five years to spend on the welfare of 94 lakh crore poor families.

Others, however, do not believe that Bihar's economic backwardness justifies greater allocation of Central funds to the State. They see the increased allocation of funds to poorer States as incentivising their bad policies and penalising more developed States which have adopted better policies.

Historically, States like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh suffered slow growth and high poverty levels due to poor rule of law that discouraged investments considered crucial to boosting growth.

But now, as one of the fastest growing States in the country, albeit from a lower base, Bihar has managed to increase its per capita income level and also the size of its overall economy at a brisk pace in recent years.

In 2022-23, for instance, Bihar's gross domestic product grew at 10.6% as against the national average of 7.2% while its per capita income level in real terms grew by 9.4% in the previous year. So, these analysts believe, Bihar does not need more fiscal help from the Centre but a stronger rule of law to further improve its economy.

In other words, while more funds from the Centre might offer Bihar some short-term relief, its long-term economic prospects will depend on the State's ability to further strengthen rule of law.

Seeking aid: The Bihar government last year estimated that the granting of the special category status will help the State receive an additional 2.5 lakh crore rupees over five years to spend on the welfare of 94 lakh crore poor families. AP

THE GIST

- Bihar's Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar, reiterates the State's demand for special category status, aiming to increase tax revenues from the Centre.
- Special category status, introduced in 1969, assists States with geographic, social, or economic disadvantages to improve their development.
- Initially, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, and Nagaland were granted special category status, with eight additional States, including Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, later receiving it.
- Bihar's demand for special status stems from its economic backwardness, low per capita income, and lagging human development indicators.
- Political considerations and fiscal implications have hindered previous governments from granting Bihar special category status.

Three months after request, State's DSTB drug requirement yet to be met

In a letter to the then Union Health Minister, Dinesh Gundu Rao had said frequent interruption in TB drug supply is affecting thousands of patients

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Three months after Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao wrote to the Centre seeking the supply of drug-sensitive tuberculosis (DSTB) drugs on an urgent basis to Karnataka, shortage of TB medications continues to affect patients.

In March, the Centre wrote to Karnataka to procure drugs locally for the next three months. As the communication was made after the model code of conduct (MCC) for the Lok Sabha election came into force, the State found it hard to procure the required quantity of drugs and the State's support to TB patients was hit.

Karnataka notifies more than 80,000 TB patients annually and around 6,800 patients monthly. As these patients need to be provided continuous treatment, Karnataka had then intensified its efforts to procure anti-TB drugs both at the State and the district level.

Karnataka notifies more than 80,000 TB patients annually and around 6,800 patients monthly. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Now, three months later, even after the MCC has been lifted, regular supply of drugs is yet to resume. Naveen Bhat Y., State Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), told *The Hindu* on Tuesday that only staggered supply had started now.

Only staggered supply has started now, said Naveen Bhat Y., State Mission Director, National Health Mission

"We have received supplies of three and four fixed-dose combination drugs (3FDC and 4FDC) that will last only for a month. We are getting supplies once in 15 days that are adequate to just about meet the requirement. But regular supply is yet to start," Dr. Bhat said. He said patients were being managed with the available stock by shifting drugs from one district to another where the shortage is forecast on a day-to-day basis. "Permission to locally procure the drugs using Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka (AB-ArK) funds has also been given so that hospitals can make local purchases in case of any emergencies," the official said, adding that the Central TB Division has assured that regular supply would resume shortly.

In the letter to the then Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Mr. Rao had pointed out that the frequent interruption in the supply of anti-TB drugs to Karnataka is affecting thousands of patients. "While there has been frequent interruption in the supply of anti-TB drugs to Karnataka since 2021, this year Karnataka received two communications from the Centre asking the State to procure DSTB drugs for the next three months. The second communication was made after the model code of conduct came into effect," he said in the letter.

While the NHM Mission Director had written to the Union Joint Secretary (RCH) seeking permission to utilise the approved Record of Proceedings of 2024-2025 to procure these medications, the Health Department had also requested the State Finance Department to provide additional funds for procuring the drugs.

The Minister had pointed out that the State's support for TB patients had been jeopardised due to the short supply. "Both the delayed communication to procure the critical drugs (whose procurement is problematic in the short run) and also issuing the communication during the MCC period have adversely affected the efforts of the State government in this regard. Under these circumstances, the Union government has an obligation to respond immediately and support the State to keep up the supply of critical drugs to the TB patients at a required level," he had said in the letter.

From Page One

Darshan, associates held in murder case

Mr. Darshan, along with 12 of his associates, has been accused of kidnapping 33-year-old Renukaswamy from Chitradurga, who was brought to a Pattanagere plot owned by one Vinay's uncle Jayanna, and tortured to death before his body was dumped in a storm-water drain in Kamakshipalaya on June 8.

The accused have been identified as Vinay V., owner of a hotel and close friend of Mr. Darshan and nephew of Pattanagere Jayanna, whose plot was allegedly used for the torture and murder of Mr. Renukaswamy; Nagaraju R., friend of Mr. Darshan and prime accused in the torture and murder; Lakshman M., Pradosh S., Pawan K., close friends of Ms. Gowda and Mr. Darshan; Deepak Kumar M., Nandish, Karthik Keshavamurthy, Nikhil Nayak and Raghavendra, president of Darshan Fans' Association in Chitradurga, who, allegedly based on the instruction of the actor and others, traced Mr. Renukaswamy and handed him over to the accused.

A food delivery man noticed the body floating and stray dogs surrounding it the next day and alerted the police. The police found that the body had multiple injuries and concluded that it was a case of murder.

The police identified the deceased as Mr. Renukaswamy, a resident of Lakshmi Venkateshwara Layout in Chitradurga and working in a medical store, who had allegedly commented on Ms. Gowda's social media account, accusing her of creating a rift between his favourite film star and his wife. Mr. Renukaswamy allegedly used indecent comments, which miffed Ms. Gowda.

She allegedly sought the help of the accused to teach him a lesson. As per the plan, the accused roped in Mr. Raghavendra to trace Mr. Renukaswamy. Mr. Raghavendra traced Mr. Renukaswamy and handed him over to the accused.

The accused, who were allegedly drunk, took him to the five-acre plot belonging to the uncle of the accused, which was rented out to a private company to park seized vehicles. The accused allegedly tortured and beat up Mr. Renukaswamy to death. The police suspect that Mr. Darshan had visited the plot and questioned Mr. Renukaswamy about the post and allegedly assaulted him. However, in custody, Mr. Darshan maintained that he had nothing to do with the incident, said informed sources.

Bigger plot

During the initial stage of investigation, four of the accused appeared before the police and allegedly confessed that they had murdered Mr. Renukaswamy due to a financial row. "However, a detailed probe revealed the bigger plot," said a police official. An FSL team visited the scene of crime and gathered evidence. The police have recovered CCTV footage, call record details, a goods vehicle, and an SUV allegedly used by the accused to transport the body.

As the news of Mr. Darshan's arrest spread, hundreds of his fans and curious onlookers gathered outside the Annapoorneshwarinagar police station to have a glimpse of the actor and Ms. Gowda.

Soon after Mr. Darshan's arrest, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was briefed by the State police chief.

In 2011, Mr. Darshan was arrested after his wife filed a complaint of domestic violence.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, JUN. 12
RISE 05:53 SET 18:46
RISE 10:55 SET 23:41

THURSDAY, JUN. 13
RISE 05:53 SET 18:46
RISE 11:42 SET 00:00

FRIDAY, JUN. 14
RISE 05:54 SET 18:47
RISE 12:27 SET 00:15

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	25
Mysuru	31	22
Bengaluru	30	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C Morning will be pleasant Day will be slight warm and humid. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower is likely to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be slight warm and humid Spell of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds may occur.

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THE HINDU
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Around 500 tonnes of mangoes sold at mela

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Farmers managed to sell around 500 tonnes of mangoes at the recently concluded three-week mango mela at Lalbagh Botanical Garden here. Over 100 farmers from across Karnataka had set up more than 50 stalls at the mela.

According to the organiser of the event, Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation Ltd. (KSMDMCL), the response to the mela this time was better than last year.

"The sales during Mango Mela depend on how many weekends we get in Lalbagh. This time, 13 to 14 varieties of mangoes were sold, and farmers were very happy," said C.G. Nagaraju, Managing Director, KSMDMCL. Kari Ishad, the variety with a Geographical Indication tag, was available at the mela this year. "The farmers who brought Kari Ishad were very happy with the response. While there was not much demand for this variety earlier, these days interest has gone up, even in Bengaluru. The farmers replenished their stocks three times during the mela," Mr. Nagaraju added.

The mango board had also revamped its online sales platform 'Karsiri' this year to encourage more customers to buy good quality mangoes directly from farmers via India Post. At least 27 farmers are selling 13 varieties of mangoes, including Kari Ishad, on the platform.

"We have sold 4,514 boxes (13.5 tonnes) of mangoes through the portal," Mr. Nagaraju said.

Facilities inspected

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chairperson of the Karnataka State Commission for Women Nagalakshmi Choudhary visited the Vijayanagar metro station on Tuesday. Ms. Chowdhary interacted with officials of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. and its women employees, gaining insights into the facilities and welfare measures provided for women.

According to a release, Ms. Chowdhary also spoke to commuters at the station and on her journey to Krishnarajapura station, gathered feedback on their safety and comfort. Following her interactions, the BMRCL claimed that Ms. Chowdhary expressed her satisfaction with the metro's performance and suggested increasing train frequency and adding more coaches for women.

Gang of four arrested for stealing valuables from devotees

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The K.S. Layout police on Monday arrested a gang of four, including two women, and recovered 174 grams of stolen gold valuables worth ₹11 lakh.

The accused, identified as Babu Sab, 45, Hussain Bi, 52, Dadapeer, 32, and Gulab Jan, 42, from Bharamasagara in Tumakuru used to allegedly steal gold chains from devotees at the temple during the rush.

Complaint

Based on a complaint by a homemaker on March 15 that she lost a 24 gm gold chain, a team of police was deployed in mufti in and around the temple. The police, after many days of watch, zeroed in on the gang and caught them while they were allegedly waiting in a car near the temple to identify their potential targets.

During rush

A probe revealed that the accused would commute by car frequently on days when there was a rush at the temple. The accused would sell the stolen valuables to jewellers in Tumakuru. Based on their information, the police issued a notice to the jewellers and recovered 174 grams of gold valuables sold by the gang.

The police have taken the accused into custody to ascertain their criminal background.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, ANGUL
E-Mail - sencrwangul@yahoo.co.in
Ph.: 06764 - 236404

No. 1533// Dt. 10/6/24 //

Cancellation of Tender for Road work

The tender for the work "Construction of flood resilient road from Pingua to Dasmanapatna via- Manjuripada road in Gondia Block in the District of Dhenkanal for the year 2023-24 invited vide this office Tender Call Notice No. 619 dt.21.02.2024 (Bid Identification No. Road Online-AGL- 50) by the Procurement officer, Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul is hereby cancelled vide letter No.19290 dt.07.06.2024 of Chief Engineer, Roads, R.W.(O), Bhubaneswar due to first time single responsive tender as per the Tender Evaluation Committee under the Chairmanship of Engineer-in-Chief-I, R.W.(O), Bhubaneswar on 05.06.2024 at 11.30 A.M.

Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Angul.

O-18: OIPR-25180/11/0003/2425

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA, PIN:751012, Tel No.(0674) 2562020,
e-Mail: theocltd@odishaconstruction.com; GSTIN - 21AAACO2571K2ZM
"e"-Procurement Notice No. 02 /OCCL/2024-25 (on-line)
On-line percentage rate tenders are invited for the following works :

Sl No.	Name of Work	Name of Division	Bid Identification	Approx. Value of Work	Bid Security (through On-Line transfer/as per DTCN) (in Rs.)	Period of Completion	Availability & Submission of Tender (on-line)
01	Improvement to left bank service road on NBC from RD 18.00 Km to RD 22.20 Km	Nimapada Irrigation Division	OCCL-HQP/07/2024-25	Rs.1.54 Crore	Rs.1,54,000/-	6 (Six) Calendar months	From 13/06/2024, 03.30 PM to 27/06/2024, 5.30 PM.
02	Improvement to service road on left bank of PMC Reach-III from VIII-Dhabalahara to Rangabazar		OCCL-HQP/08/2024-25	Rs.2.30 Crore	Rs.2,30,000/-		
03	Improvement to service road on left bank of PMC Reach-III from Block Office to village Pratap Sasan		OCCL-HQP/09/2024-25	Rs.2.30 Crore	Rs.2,30,000/-		
04	Improvement to service road on right bank of Putupada Disty. From RD 0.00 Km to 2.00 Km		OCCL-HQP/10/2024-25	Rs.1.54 Crore	Rs.1,54,000/-		
05	Improvement to service road on left bank of PMC Reach-III RD 29.37 Km to 32.370 Km		OCCL-HQP/11/2024-25	Rs.2.30 Crore	Rs.2,30,000/-		
06	Improvement to periphery road on right side of Kuanria Dam & road to view tower of Kuanria Irrigation Project .	Nayagarh Irrigation Division	OCCL-HQP/12/2024-25	Rs.0.87 Crore	Rs.87,000/-		
07	Improvement to periphery road of left Distributary from RD 1.200 Km to 11.150 Km of Kuanria Irrigation Project		OCCL-HQP/13/2024-25	Rs.1.93 Crore	Rs.1,93,000/-		
08	Improvement to left bank service road of Guando minor from RD 75 M to RD 4500 M & RD 5700 M to 7000 M of BBIP		OCCL-HQP/14/2024-25	Rs.1.74 Crore	Rs.1,74,000/-		
09	Improvement to road on Hada left embankment from Sahajpur to Sagargaon	Khurda Irrigation Division	OCCL-HQP/15/2024-25	Rs.0.92 Crore	Rs.92,000/-		
10	Improvement to service road of Sumandal Main Canal from RD 14.00 Km to RD 17.00 Km, Service road of Kaniaribadi Distributary from RD 00 Km to 1.20 Km & Service road of Sardhapur Distributary from RD 00 Km to 3.00 Km of Salia Irrigation Project		OCCL-HQP/16/2024-25	Rs.2.06 Crore	Rs.2,06,000/-		

Procurement Officer : Managing Director, OCCL. Date of Opening of the Tender : 28.06.2024, 12.00 Noon onwards. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in

MANAGING DIRECTOR
CAD-202 OIPR-34120/11/0004/2425

E-Mail : sencrwangul@yahoo.co.in; Ph. No.06764-236404
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, ANGUL
No. 1546 // Dt. 10.06.2024 //

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR ROAD WORK IN ODISHA
Bid Identification No. Road Online AGL-02/2024-25

1. Name of the Work : Road Work
2. Total No. of Work : 1 No.
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.1282.02 Lakhs
4. Class of Contractor : As per Annexure
5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul	Road Online -AGL-02/2024-25	20.06.2024 at 10.00 A.M.	03.07.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.	02.07.2024 up to 1.00 P.M.	04.07.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated separately

For detailed Notice Inviting Tenders, Please visit to the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul.
O-20: OIPR-25180/11/0001/2425

MAHANAGARA PALIKE KALABURAGI
Ph.: 08472/ 278675 Fax : 08472 / 260776 E-mail: itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com
No: KMP/EE/TS-02/NMPC/15th FC/05/2024-25 Date: 11.06.2024

KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL
07 DAYS SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi invites 04 tender as per KPPP Portal 2.0 act, 1999 and Rules, 2000 through KPPP Portal in KW-4 Tender bid documents under 15th Finance Non Million Plus 2023-24 & 15th Finance 2023-24 Commission scheme for 04 works. The bid documents can be downloaded from KPPP Portal website and any information related to these tenders will be updated on www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in, 2) Estimate Sanction cost: **Lowest Amount Rs. 10.00 lakhs & Highest Amount Rs. 79.10 Lakhs,** 3) EMD Value: Lowest Rs. 25,000.00 & Highest Rs. 1,03,000.00, 4) Pre Bid Meeting date: **19.06.2024 upto 11-00 am.** 4) Last date of Bid Submission: **19.06.2024 upto 4-30 pm.** 5) Technical Bid Opening date: **20.06.2024 upto 4-35 pm.** 6) Financial Bid Opening date: **21.06.2024 after 11:30 am.** 7) Office Address : Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi. 8) For more details visit Office Website http://www.kalaburagicity.mrc.gov.in/

Note: All subsequent corrigendum/amendment shall be published only on website and not in press. Hence, tenderers are advoised to always be in touch with our said website until the tender is finally opened.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi.
DIPR/Kalaburagi/76/KSMC&A/2024-25

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
SCB MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, CUTTACK GOVT. OF ODISHA
E Mail : scbsuperintendent@gmail.com; Ph. : 0671-2414080
Letter No. 12474 //SCB MCH Dt. 10.06.2024

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF ICU / CASUALTY MEDICAL OFFICER FOR TRAUMA CARE CENTRE, SCB MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, CUTTACK ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS THROUGH WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Eligible candidates are invited to attend the walk-in-interview in the Office of the Superintendent SCBMCH, Cuttack for the post of ICU / Casualty Medical Officer for Trauma Care Centre, SCB Medical College & Hospital, Cuttack on 21.06.2024 (Friday) contractual / deputation basis in view of urgency. The details of the eligibility criteria / vacancies / etc. are available in the SCB MCH website i.e. scbmch.in. The direct candidates shall be appointed on contractual basis. Applications in the prescribed proforma are invited from the eligible candidates for filling up the vacant post of 8 nos. of ICU / Casualty Medical Officer for Trauma Care Centre, SCB MCH, Cuttack on contractual basis till the post is filled up on regular basis.

Candidates are required to submit application online to **scbsuperintendent@gmail.com** in the format given in the website by **19.06.2024 by 5 PM**.

The engagement is purely temporary and the candidate cannot claim their right to continue in the post on the basis of such appointment/engagement. The selected candidates have to submit an undertaking to this effect.

Medical Superintendent
SCB Medical College & Hospital, Cuttack
E-31: OIPR-10186/11/0001/2425

ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED
OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha
CIN: U13100OR1956SGC000313, www.omcltd.in

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No. 92/ OMC Date: 11.06.2024

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Interested eligible candidates are advised to download the application format from OMC website:**https://omcltd.in>People>Career>Employment Opportunities** and submit the same duly filled in & signed along with attested copies of Certificates, Mark sheets, Experience Certificate etc. in support of their eligibility by **Registered Post/Speed Post/ Courier** in a cover superscribed "APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF....." so as to reach the **Executive Director (P&A),** Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd.,OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001 by **11.07.2024** positively. Applications received after the last date due to delay in postal/courier or any other reason shall not be entertained and will be rejected.

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Sd/- Executive Director (P&A)
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(A GOLD CATEGORY STATE PSU)
CAD-220: OIPR-30005/11/0024/2425

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KEYWORD

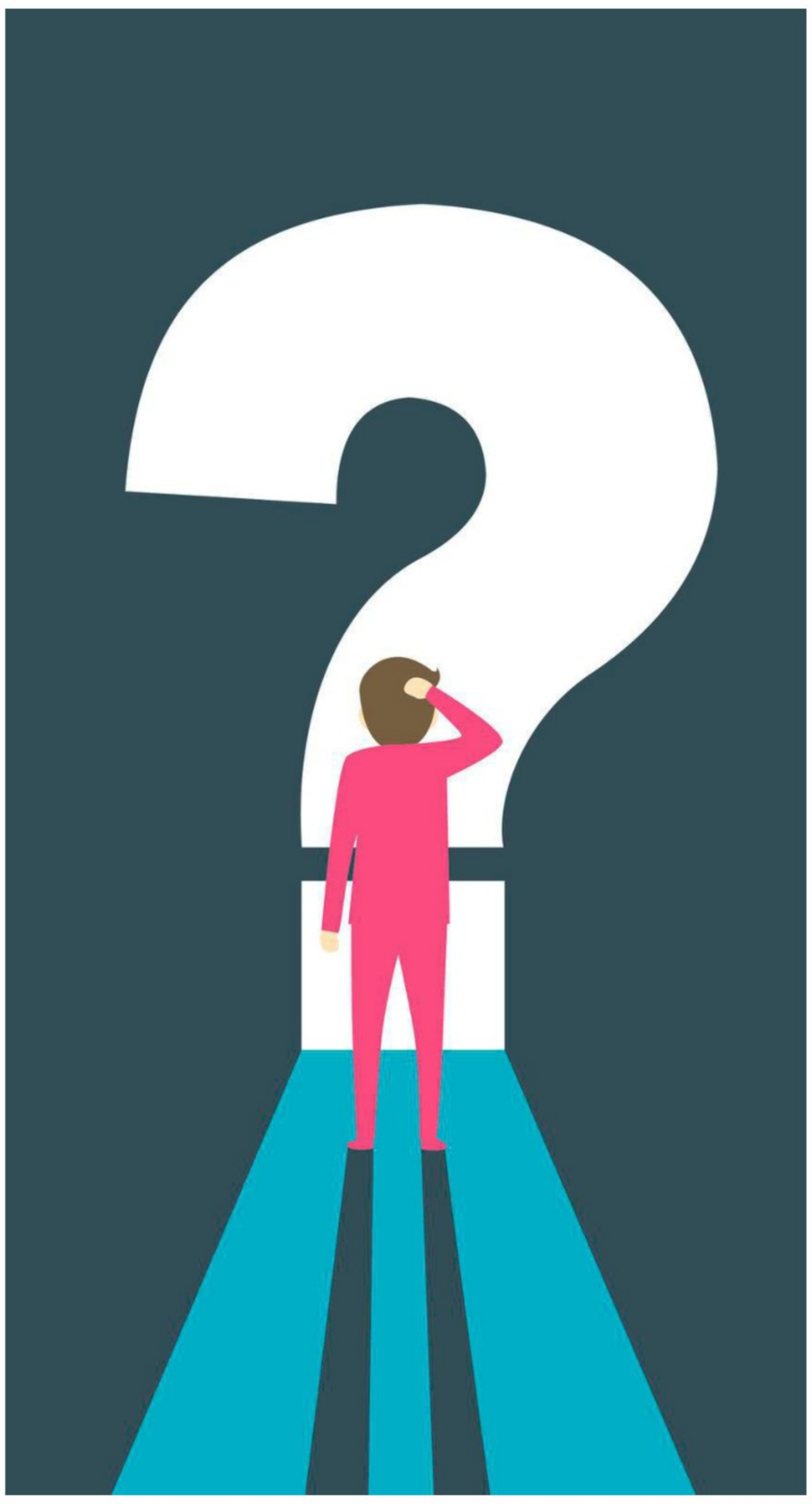
Impact of Oriental despotism and the idea of otherness

A look at the evolution of the concept of Oriental despotism, influenced by the Eurocentric perspectives of various thinkers across centuries; this idea was further shaped by medieval and Enlightenment thinkers

Rebecca Rose Varghese

A concept shaped and enriched by philosophers, political theorists, travellers, administrators and diplomats, Oriental despotism is an idea intertwined with European culture, greatly impacted by travel literature. The roots of the concept can be traced back to Greek thought, where terms like "despot" and "despotism" were used to establish Greek identity and superiority over "barbarous" nations, notably the Persians. Many Greek philosophers distinguished the Greeks from the Persians, believing that Persians were subordinate slaves, in contrast to the freedom-loving Greeks.

It was Aristotle who provided a clearer and more theoretical foundation for the concept in his book *Politics*. He regarded despotism as a legitimate and hereditary form of monarchy, particularly suitable for societies perceived as more barbarous, such as those in Persia, where the monarch wielded absolute power, due to people's inclination towards subordination. However, this differed significantly from tyranny, which was illegitimate and against the wishes of the subjects.



GETTY IMAGES

Various interpretations of the concept

The limited understanding of Asiatic societies, shaped by a Eurocentric perspective, led to misconceptions about Asians, particularly the Persians, resulting in various interpretations of Oriental despotism. These preconceived notions about the Persians persisted through the Byzantine Empire and medieval European thought.

Medieval authors and theorists, influenced by Aristotle's classification of governments, cited Oriental societies as examples of tyrannical governments to justify political struggles in their own countries. These works reinforced the idea of Oriental otherness, creating a separation between the so-called superior European societies and the inferior Asiatic societies.

By the 16th century, new connotations were attributed to the concepts. For instance, Florentine philosopher and diplomat Niccolò Machiavelli used it to distinguish between a state governed by citizens (republics) and a state governed by a single ruler, such as a prince (principalities). The Ottoman Empire, a centralised monarchical government, became the new example used to explain despotic rule, contrasting with the decentralised European monarchies.

French philosopher Jean Bodin further explained the concept. Using the term *monarchie seigneuriale,* he described a political system where the prince wields unlimited authority over his subjects, similar to the relationship between the master and the slave. This was contrasted with *monarchie royale*, where the king's authority was limited by property rights and fundamental, divine, and natural laws of the state. With no private property rights, *monarchie seigneuriale* Bodin believed it was the most ancient form of monarchy, which was very different from tyranny, which was unstable and illegitimate.

By the late 17th and early 18th centuries, travellers' accounts of Persian monarchies shaped the understanding of Oriental despotism. French physician François Bernier criticised the despotic government of the Mughal Empire he visited. He highlighted the stark wealth disparity between rich princes and poor subjects, attributing it to the lack of private ownership rights.

French jeweller and traveller Jean Chardin described the Persian Safavid monarchy's despotism as due to historical and political factors, not the natural character of the people or Islam. Such a view helped challenge the uniform interpretation of Asiatic governments and emphasised the need for empirical experience in understanding political systems.

Oriental despotism and Enlightenment

During the Age of Enlightenment, theorists from countries such as France critiqued the authoritarian monarchy within their own nation. The concerns of the period are reflected in the fact that many drew parallels between Louis XIV's rule and that of Eastern despots. The French philosopher Montesquieu analysed despotism as an autonomous form of government which was distinct from the Aristotelian monarchy. It was defined by concentrated authority and a principle of intimidation. He argued that Asia's vast plains and political landscape, unlike Europe's fragmented ones, were key factors behind the emergence of despotism. Montesquieu also examined the relationships between climate, religion, manners, economy, and laws, laying an empirical foundation for the concept.

Like Montesquieu's emphasis on the role of religion in despotism, many other theories also linked it to theocracy. However, many also criticised Montesquieu's limited understanding of the concept. French writer Voltaire, for instance, explained how Montesquieu's argument did not hold when considering countries like Turkey. Other Orientalists critiqued the notion that limitless authority existed in Asia, citing examples of princely states in India.

Conversely, some, particularly from the Physiocratic school of thought, admired and promoted systems with central authority, like that in China, which managed economic and social laws. These perspectives, emphasising efficiency, portrayed the concept in a more positive light.

With the extensive colonisation of Asia by Europe, various perspectives about governance in Asian countries emerged due to increased interaction between the colonisers and the local populations. Detailed accounts about the East by diplomats and administrative staff aimed at ensuring the smooth functioning of authority, contributed to a more nuanced understanding of the East.

Role in the Asiatic mode of production

The concept took a new turn when German philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel used it to understand the Asiatic mode of production. He viewed Oriental despotism as the initial stage of historical development, where individual autonomy was limited, and the universal spirit was concentrated in a single free person – the despot. Influenced by Hegel's ideas, German philosopher and socialist Karl Marx, sought to explain the rationale behind such a system centred on a single ruler.

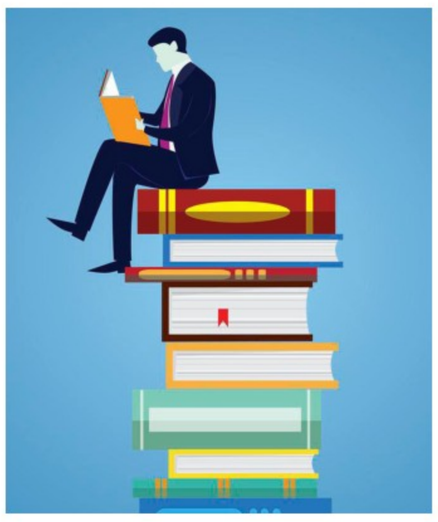
Marx argued that despotism persisted due to the absence of individual property rights in the Asiatic mode of production, where the sovereign alone owned the land and believed that the geography of Asiatic countries reinforced their political systems. For instance, strong and centralised authority was needed to manage essential agricultural watering systems. He then asserted that European colonialism was necessary to modernise and Westernise the stagnant production systems in these societies.

Later, German sociologist Max Weber explored the concept further to explain the differences between Mediterranean and Asiatic societies. He considered economic and geographical factors, arguing that the agrarian needs in Asian countries led to a more centralised system of power, rigid and concentrated on the ruler, while Mediterranean societies became more secular and capitalistic.

By the 20th century, theorists like Karl August Wittfogel revisited the concept and extended the argument about the despotic rule in Asian irrigation-based societies to criticise modern communist regimes as a new form of despotism. These regimes, he claimed, had similar features of despotism rule, such as people not having the right to own private property, and the government's absolute control over society.

The concept of Oriental despotism evolved from its origins in Greek thought, through medieval adaptations and Enlightenment ideas, to explain power in agrarian societies across Asia. Although its theoretical relevance declined with the rise of post-colonial theories and global historical perspectives, its influence on European culture remains significant. The concept has shaped the modern European mind and its sense of civic identity and responsibility.

Contemporary analyses show how the stereotype of arbitrary Oriental power created a sense of otherness in European colonial and imperial ideologies, influencing how they ruled the colonised nations, especially in Asia. The persistent influence of Oriental despotism on European culture is seen in the complex interaction between ideas, experiences, historical views, and political attitudes toward Asian countries.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

The Present Perfect Tense

(a) He has got a lot of money.
(b) He hat a lot of money.

Both mean the same, but generally 'has got' is used in colloquial English: (a) Has he any money? (b) Has he got any money? (c) Does he have any money? (a) is formal, (b) is informal, and (c) is American. There is a difference between (a) Do you have headaches? and (b) Have you got a headache? (a) asks whether you generally have headaches, whether you are often bothered by them, (b) asks whether you have a headache at the moment.

This distinction is made in British English. Americans do not make this distinction between the two and use generally 'Do you have structure.' An American asked an English lady 'Do you have children?' She said, 'Yes, from time to time.'

'Got' generally goes with 'have' and 'has' in questions. Have you got some time to spare? Have you got any sense? Has he got any friends? What have you got?

Occasionally, one finds 'gotten.' Shakespeare used 'gotten' in his earlier plays. The Authorised Version of the Bible uses both 'got' and 'gotten.' In Scotland 'gotten' is generally used. Perhaps Americans took this form from the Scots. Some make a distinction between 'I have gotten' and 'I have got' 'I have gotten what I sought' means that I have obtained what I wanted. You seek something and when you get it, you say 'I have gotten it.' 'I have got a pen' means that I own, and possess a pen. This is the distinction that is made between 'gotten' and 'got' by some grammarians. 'Gotten' is rarely used in British English. It is retained in words like 'forgotten,' 'begotten.' There is a distinction between 'He is dead' and 'He has died.' 'He is dead' refers to the state. 'He has died' means that he is no longer alive. The difference between the two is like the difference between 'is gone' and 'has gone.'

Doctor, what's her condition?
Sorry.
She has just died.
She is dead?
Yes.

Propone

Almost every week, I get a letter regarding this word, though I discussed this a couple of times in this column. This word does not exist in English. But it is widely used in India and is as common as mosquitoes and corruption. Some readers feel strongly that it should find a place in all good dictionaries. When it does, we who love to postpone things can feel proud that we coined the word. Some advance this!

Belief, trust (A. K. Jha, Patna)

Belief is acceptance of something or somebody without verification. Belief is based on one's intuition, experience, etc. Trust is stronger than belief. You believe in God. When your belief becomes stronger, you say you trust in God. Trust in God and do the right. His belief in him was misplaced.

Published in The Hindu on March 31, 1992

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on Russia on the occasion of Russia Day on June 12

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

V. V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
What does the Russia Day celebrate?

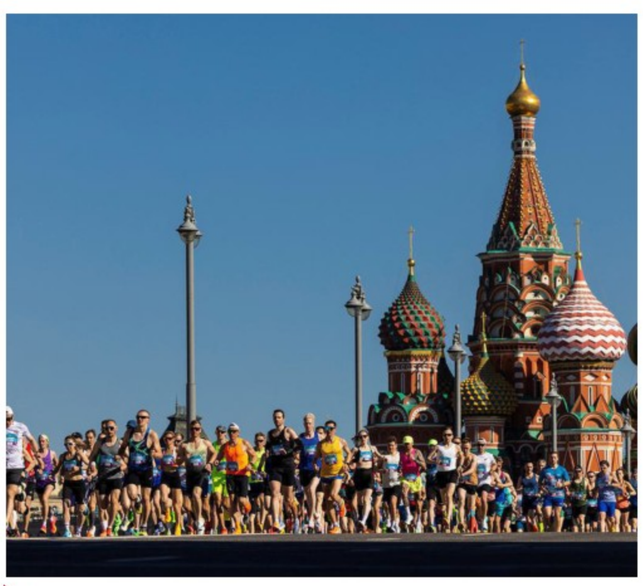
QUESTION 2
If India's Lower House of Parliament is called Lok Sabha, what is it for Russia?

QUESTION 3
What is the name of the world's deepest freshwater lake that is located in Russia?

QUESTION 4
In which Russian city is the world-famous State Hermitage Museum?

QUESTION 5
Apart from Boris Yeltsin and Vladimir Putin, who else has served as the President of Russia?

QUESTION 6
Russia has the second-most number of time zones after France. How many time zones does Russia have?



Visual Question:
What is the name of this world-famous edifice in Moscow? REUTERS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. How many countries hosted the last edition of Euro in 2020? **Ans: 11 countries**
2. Which country has finished in the top four the most times? **Ans: Germany** (9 times)
3. Name the countries that have won the championship when they also happened to be the host. **Ans: Spain in 1964, Italy in 1968 & 2020 and France in 1984**
4. I hold almost all individual records as far as the European Football Championship is concerned. **Ans: Cristiano Ronaldo**
5. I won the Player of the Tournament award and also scored the most number of goals in that tournament yet my country did not win the Championship in that edition. **Ans: Antonie Griezmann, France in 2016**
6. Who scored the first-ever hat-trick in the European Football Championship, all as a substitute? **Ans: Dieter Muller, of West Germany**
7. Who is the only player to have won the Euro Championship both as a player and as a coach? **Ans: Berti Vogts**
Visual: Identify the legendary football player. **Ans: Michel Platini, France**
Early Birds: Rajmohan V | Bharath Viswanathan

Word of the day

Riposte: a quick reply to a question or remark, especially a witty or critical one

Synonyms: retort, counter, comeback

Usage: *She always had a clever riposte for everything*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/ripostepronun

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɹɪˈpəʊst/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

One year on, Shakti scheme smart cards are yet to become a reality

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The Shakti Scheme in Karnataka has completed its first year, yet the smart cards intended for the beneficiaries remain undistributed. According to Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, while the smart cards have been prepared, their issuance has been stalled due to the absence of electronic ticketing machines (ETMs) in all buses, making them impractical.

The Transport Department, alongside the Centre for e-Governance (CeG), has successfully created prototypes of smart cards for the scheme, Mr. Reddy told *The Hindu*. However, he said the rollout of these smart cards might be delayed because their suitability for use on city routes, especially within the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) jurisdiction and in ETMs, needs to be evaluated.

The Shakti scheme has facilitated over 226 crore rides, with the total value of free tickets amounting to ₹5,526 crore. H.S. MANJUNATH

Although the scheme has already facilitated over 226 crore rides, with the total value of free tickets amounting to ₹5,526 crore, the government's plan to distribute smart cards to women passengers, originally scheduled to be implemented within three months of the scheme's launch on June 11, 2023, has faced delays.

"The smart cards have the potential to be used for long-distance routes on the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation buses. However, their applicability for the BMTC and other short-distance city buses within the State requires careful evaluation. Due to the high volume of short-duration trips on city buses, implementing the smart cards for the scheme may be challenging," Mr. Reddy explained. At the scheme's launch, the government announced that women who want to benefit from the scheme must apply through the official portal and submit a valid government-issued ID card as proof of identity. After this, the road transport corporations (RTCs) were supposed to distribute Shakti smart cards, which utilise a 'tap-and-travel' technology.

At present, female passengers show a valid identity card issued by either the Central or State government to get a 'zero ticket' (free ticket) for bus travel.

Mr. Reddy said, "Now, the RTCs are managing well without the smart cards, and conductors are issuing tickets after verifying the identity cards of women passengers. There are no significant issues with ticket issuance. However, it is acknowledged that smart cards would be beneficial for both passengers and conductors by saving time. Additionally, the government would get data on the beneficiaries of the scheme, as the smart cards can be tapped on the ETMs."

Earlier, the CeG had expressed concerns about developing the smart cards due to the high volume and associated manufacturing challenges. However, Mr. Reddy said the department eventually agreed to take up the project.

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Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Government of Karnataka
Labour Department

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Karnataka Building And Other Construction Workers Welfare Board
Karnataka State Child Labour Eradication Project Society(R)

Let's act on our commitments: End Child Labour!

"World Day Against Child Labour"

"Let's act on our commitments: End Child Labour"

Send Your Children To School, Not For Work

Steps being taken by the Labour Department to eradicate child labour

Appointing children below 14 years of age in any type of employment or works and engaging children below 18 years of age in hazardous employments are punishable offence under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986.

In case if any person is found to have engaged or appointed child labourers for work, he/she can attract imprisonment from 06 months to 02 years or fine from Rs. 20,000/- to Rs.50,000/- or both. Repeated offences will attract imprisonment from 01 to 03 years.

Parents who force their children for work can also face legal action. In case of repeated offence a fine up to Rs.10,000/- will be imposed.

Effective implementation of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986.

Child Labour Project Societies have been established in all the districts of Karnataka State under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner.

Steps have been taken to prevent employment of child labour in construction sites and continuous monitoring is being done.

Scholarships are being offered for the education of children of construction workers with the aim of eradicating child labour.

Persons who violate these rules will have to pay a sum of Rs.20,000/- per child they engage for work, to the Welfare Fund established for rehabilitation of children. A sum of Rs.15,000/- will also be provided by the Government per child.

Let's stop child labour - let's build a prosperous future

Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Siddaramaiah and Hon'ble Labour Minister and Chairman of the Board Sri. Santosh S. Lad with the children during the World Day Against Child Labour.

JATHA PROGRAMME
Date: 12th June 2024, 8.30 a.m.
Venue : From M.G. Road Gandhi Statue to K.R. Circle

Inauguration
Sri Santhosh S. Lad
Hon'ble Labour Minister &
Dharwad District In-charge Minister
Govt. of Karnataka

Guest of Honour
Sri P.C. Mohan
Hon'ble Member of Parliament
Bangalore Central
Sri N.A. Haris
Hon'ble MLA, Shanthinagar Assembly Constituency

Special Invitee
Ragini Dwivedi
Renowned Film Actress

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Dr|l H.N. Gopalakrishna, I.A.S
Commissioner
Labour Department

Smt. Bharathi D, IAS
CEO & Secretary
Karnataka Building And Other Construction Workers Welfare Board

Sri Mohammad Mohsin, IAS
Principal Secretary to Government
Labour Department

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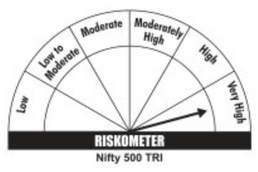

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CM asks officials to mop up more revenue; hints at action for lapses

He tells officials to cooperate with one another to reach the targets given to their departments

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah holding a meeting with officials of various departments in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who holds the Finance portfolio, on Tuesday chaired a meeting with senior officials of Commercial Taxes, Stamps and Registration, transport department, and Excise departments to look at ways to mop up more revenue and said "disciplinary action" would be inevitable if officials did not reach the revenue targets set for 2024-25.

He said commitment to work and mobilisation of revenue were major yardsticks for officials for evaluating their performance during transfers.

The Chief Minister said he would not yield to any pressure and told them to cooperate one another to reach the financial targets given to their departments.

He said the Excise Department services such as Excise Online Licence Renewal Services, E-Services, E-Payment, E-Office, and Excise Crime Software should be integrated for ease of doing business.

He launched the department's E-version-2 software for providing end-to-end services.Mr. Siddaramaiah asked Excise officials to check diversion of liquor to neighbouring States and provide services to traders without any harassment.

Officials informed the Chief Minister that the excise target had not been achieved during the last two months owing to poll code. With regard to the Stamps and Registration Department, officials told the Chief Minister that the revenue collection had touched ₹20,287.30 crore in 2023-24 as against the target of ₹20,000.

The Chief Minister reviewed the progress of collection of motor vehicle taxes and that of Mines and Geology Department.

He told officials to take steps for increasing the royalty amount from leases of mines and minor minerals.

The meeting, which was held soon after the parliamentary election results, assumed significance for continued implementation of the five "guarantee" schemes of the State government. Officials of the Finance Department attended the meeting.

Revival of VISL: Employees pin hopes on Kumaraswamy

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy being greeted as he assumes office, in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy's new role as Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel has raised the hopes of employees of Visvesaraya Iron and Steel Ltd. (VISL) at Bhadravati, who have been demanding that the sick unit be revived.

Mr. Kumaraswamy is learnt to have discussed issues related to the VISL revival at his first meeting with officers of Steel Ministry in Delhi.

The industry, set up by the erstwhile rulers of Mysore in 1923, was once known widely for quality steel production. However, in recent years, the industry, a unit of the Steel Authority of India (SAIL), has been in a bad state. In January 2023, the SAIL Board decided to close it, triggering protests by employees.

Mr. Kumaraswamy, ahead of the State Assembly polls in 2023, had extended support to the protesters. During his visit to Bhadravati on February 3, 2023, he assured the workers that he would not allow the unit to be closed and would make efforts to rejuvenate it if his party came to power in the State.

"Now, he has become Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel, and VISL comes under it. He has a great opportunity. We have high hopes on him. We are all happy for Prime Minister Narendra Modi for allotting him this Ministry," said J. Jagadish, president of VISL Workers' Association.

Following protests and efforts by elected representatives, SAIL, allowed partial operations at VISL with limited staff. At present, only the primary mill, bar mill, and forge plant are working. As many as 196 permanent employees, 50 executives, and around 1,200 contract employees are working. The contract employees get jobs for 13 days a month.

The blast furnace and steel-making shop have remained defunct since January 2017. "The machinery is too old and not in working condition. Besides, the buildings are also in a dilapidated state. There is a need for investment for the rejuvenation of the unit," he said.

The SAIL has proposed to invest ₹1 lakh crore for its expansion. "We are demanding that if ₹15,000 crore to ₹20,000 crore is invested, VISL will be revived. A 2 million-tonne-capacity production unit can be set up. This will help generate employment and boost the economy of Bhadravati and Shivamogga," Mr. Jagadish said.

The State government had allotted 150 acres in Ballari district for the mining activity of SAIL-VISL. The proposal is yet to be cleared by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. "The VISL is ready for compensatory afforestation activity to compensate the forest land allotted for mining," he added.

On Tuesday, representatives of the employees' association met Shivamogga Lok Sabha member B.Y. Raghavendra, who has been elected for the fourth term, and discussed the future efforts to revive the industry.

"Mr. Raghavendra has been making efforts to keep the unit functioning. He told us that he would take a delegation of workers to Mr. Kumaraswamy in Bengaluru next week. We will invite Mr. Kumaraswamy to VISL and appeal to him to fulfil our demands, he said.

CM, Ashok lock horns over LS poll results

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

R. Ashok

Siddaramaiah

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok were engaged in war of words over the Lok Sabha election results on Tuesday, with the former calling the latter "ignorant and entertaining people". In response, Mr. Ashok said the Chief Minister "sometimes wakes up from deep slumber to exhibit his arrogance and anger".

Attacking Mr. Ashok for his comments, the Chief Minister said the Congress had improved its vote share by 13% from the previous elections and increased the seat tally from one to nine.

"Mr. Ashok keeps exhibiting his ignorance and entertains people of the State. He says that guarantees have not brought votes to Congress. Why are you (Mr. Ashok) so angry with the guarantees? People of the State and the country defeated Modi's guarantees and not Congress' guarantees. We have improved our vote share by 13 % over the previous elections and the vote share difference between BJP and Congress is a mere 0.63 %," Mr. Siddaramaiah said in a statement. Though the Congress was not happy with the results, people had supported the party, he added.

The Chief Minister said that though the BJP fell at the feet of Janata Dal (S), it could not prevent decline in the number of seats from 26 to 17 and the Congress could not be prevented from increasing the tally from one to nine.

"Tell us now who won and who lost. You should introspect and later analyse Congress' performance. We have not implemented guarantees for political gain only. It is out commitment and concern for people of the State."

He further said that the concern of BJP towards Dalits was displayed by the fact that no Dalit or a person from backward classes had been accommodated in the Union Cabinet. "The murder of an innocent girl in Hubballi was used politically that affected us. Otherwise, BJP would have come down to single digit."

In response, Mr. Ashok said: "The Chief Minister sometimes wakes up from his deep slumber to display arrogance and anger. It is your Ministers and legislators who are saying that guarantees have failed to bring votes and I am not saying this. Though Congress allied with 40 parties across the country and indulged in spread of misinformation, it could not muster seats that the BJP won independently. The Congress figures did not exceed double digits."

In Karnataka, he said that the NDA got leads in 154 Assembly constituencies and 17 Cabinet Ministers failed to provide Congress candidates leads in their constituencies.

"The Congress blames EVMs for its defeat but says EVMs worked well when it wins. You got votes on false promises and women are cursing the party."

State team meets industry leaders at London summit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Priyank Kharge visited the place on the banks of the Thames in London where the bust of social reformer Basaveshwara has been installed. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A delegation from Karnataka, headed by Priyank Kharge, Minister for IT & BT, and Science & Technology, met industry leaders at the London Tech Summit on Monday.

At the summit, the delegation also interacted with Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Arm Holdings plc, discussed matters regarding semiconductor manufacturing, benefiting from a global start-up ecosystem, exchange programmes on innovation, etc.

The State government has also decided to collaborate with the "Access in Tokyo" team in order to foster market expansion for Karnataka and Tokyo-based start-ups, in addition to curating a Global Innovation Alliance Market Access Programme (GIAMAP) in association with Tokyo Innovation Base. The Japanese government and industry bodies also decided to participate in tech events including the 2024 Bangalore Tech Summit. The delegation from Karnataka also met Peter Stephens, Director of Government Partnerships at Arm Holdings plc.

Headquartered in Cambridge, it primarily operates in the semiconductor, microprocessor, graphic processing unit (GPU) and neural processing unit (NPU) designs. The company, focuses on CPU technology building the future of computing, licenses the instruction sets for modern chips to various partners, who then customise it to suit their applications.

Arms Holdings plc has offices in Bengaluru and Noida. They have an annual turnover of $3.23 billion.

Raja Venugopal Naik takes oath as MLA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Raja Venugopal Naik, who was elected to the Legislative Assembly in the byelection from Surpur constituency, took oath as a member of the House on June Tuesday.

Speaker U.T. Khader administered the oath of office to him. Mr. Naik had defeated BJP candidate Narasimha Naik in the bypolls.

The Surpur Assembly constituency is reserved for the Scheduled Tribes. The bypoll was held following the death of Raja Venkatappa Naik, father of Mr. Raja Venugopal Naik.

The byelection was held on May 7. Mr. Raja Venugopal Naik secured 1,14,886 votes while Mr. Narasimha Naik got 96,566, and the victory margin was 18,320 votes.

M.B. Patil holds deliberations with Machine Tools Vision Group

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to bolster Karnataka's position as a leader in the machine tools industry, the Machine Tools' first Vision Group began its task by holding deliberations under the chairmanship of Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil on Tuesday.

The meeting focused on identifying key challenges and work areas to drive the State's industry forward.

The session, which is part of the nine proposed vision groups formed by Mr. Patil, saw active participation from industry leaders and experts, including representatives from the Indian Machine Tool Manufacturers' Association (IMTMA).

The discussions centred around several pivotal focus areas, including technology advancement, research and development (R&D), and skill development, with the aim of making Karnataka the number one state in the machine tools sector.

Key challenges

Key challenges and suggestions discussed included IMTMA's proposal on R&D and new product development, establishing technology centres with government and industry sharing the cost in 80:20 ratio, and collaborating with top educational institutes like IISc, NIT, and IIT Dharwad for enhanced technology adoption.

The need for advanced technological resources, such as laser source technology, was highlighted as crucial for global competitiveness.

Mr. Patil stated: "Our goal is to transform Karnataka into the leading hub for machine tools in India. By focusing on technology advancement, R&D, and skill development, we can create a robust ecosystem that fosters innovation and growth."

₹100 crore from State Disaster Management Fund will be used to develop 93 tanks, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

N.S. Boseraju

Minister for Minor Irrigation, Science, and Technology N.S. Boseraju on Tuesday said the allocation of ₹100 crore from the State Disaster Management Fund (SDMF) would be utilised to enhance storage capacity of 93 tanks in the first phase in the State.

Speaking after the meeting with Minor Irrigation officials, he said in 2023-24, 223 taluks were declared drought-affected owing to deficient rainfall.

The government had sanctioned ₹100 crore from SDMF and funds would be used to develop lakes, increase water storage levels, and support agriculture, horticulture, and animal husbandry. He directed officials to devise a comprehensive action plan for the purpose.

In the initial phase, the Minor Irrigation Department would develop 93 lakes. These lakes had already been identified and authorities had been instructed to formulate detailed plans.

SALEM CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
2023-24 - CGF Fund
Roc.No. E2/14447/WS/2023-24 — E-Tender Notice (Double Cover System) — Date: 10.06.2024
Redevelopment of Mookaneri Outlet Chennel (Mookaneri Out let to Thirumanimutharu River) in Division No.8 of Hasthampatty Zone in Salem City Municipal Corporation at an estimate cost of Rs.11.07 Crores (including GST).
1. Bid document and other information available at **www.tntenders.gov.in** Tender document can be downaloaded from the above website.
2. Date, time and Venue for Tender Procedures
Submission of bids - From **14.06.2024 to 16.07.2024 up to 3.00 P.M.**
Opening of bids - **16.07.2024 at 3.30 P.M**
DIPR/1849/TENDER/2024 — **COMMISSIONER, SALEM CORPORATION.**

BHARATHIAR UNIVERSITY
COIMBATORE - 641046.
ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR JULY 2024 SESSION
Ph.D (Full Time / Part Time) PROGRAMME 2024 - 2025
Ref.No.: B1/C2/Ph.D./July Admn./2024 Dated : 11.06.2024
Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for admission to **Ph.D. (F.T. / P.T. July 2024 Session)** Programmes during the academic year 2024-2025 for University Departments / Affiliated colleges / Recognized Research Institutions of Bharathiar University.
For application forms, prospectus & other details, kindly visit our website : **www.b-u.ac.in**
Last date for submission of applications : 30.06.2024
DIPR/564/DIS/2024 — **Registrar i/c**

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE
DEATH ANNIVERSARIES
9th ANNIVERSARY

S.I.P. DHANASEKARAN
(S/o. S.I. Paramasiva Nadar)
Founder
S.I.P. DHANASEKARAN & CO.
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YOU ARE THE GUIDING FORCE FOR US
FONDLY REMEMBERED BY
Family & Staff of
S.I.P. DHANASEKARAN & CO.,

Contractor issues and environmental hurdles make Ejipura flyover project a jinxed one

Initially undertaken by Simplex Infrastructure Limited, the project has been stalled multiple times due to funding issues, changes in government, and contractor disputes

EXPLAINER

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Pending work of Ejipura flyover at Koramangala in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

In 2021, the BBMP blamed the company in charge for the delay and called for fresh tenders. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The story so far

Bengaluru and its civic bodies are notorious for delays in completion of infrastructural projects. Arguably the most infamous among such projects is the Ejipura flyover, which has been dragging on for the past seven years. Intended to connect the southeast part of the city to its east and west regions, it has faced numerous delays since its commencement in 2017.

Initially undertaken by Simplex Infrastructure Limited, the project has been stalled multiple times due to funding issues, changes in government, and contractor disputes.

As of 2024, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has re-tendered the project, now under the supervision of Bollineni Seenaiah Company Private Limited (BSCPL). According to officials, it might be another 15 months before the completion of the project.

When did the project start?

Construction of the Ejipura flyover officially began in 2017 under the Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) coalition government, with the contract given to Kolkata-based firm Simplex Infrastructure Limited. When the coalition collapsed in 2019, Simplex had completed only 30% of the work.

In 2021, the BBMP blamed the company for the delay and called for fresh tenders.

"The project is currently on hold as the termination process is happening. The company which took up the project is not showing interest anymore in continuing with it," Ramesh N., who was then the BBMP's Chief Engineer (Projects), was quoted saying.

"It will take about two to three months for the BBMP to find the right contractors. Work will resume after this, and the flyover may be ready by mid-2022," he then said.

Amid growing traffic concerns caused by the delayed project, a public interest litigation was filed in the Karnataka High Court in 2021, prompting BBMP to issue a fresh tender in August 2022. This, however, was later recalled due to technical issues.

A subsequent tender in January 2023 received the necessary technical approval. Hyderabad-based B Seenaiah & Company (Projects) Limited (BSCPL) was issued the contract to complete the remaining work.

The total cost to finish the project was quoted around ₹142 crore. On top of it, BBMP owed Simplex Infrastructure an additional outstanding pay of ₹15 crore.

Construction of the compound wall, which began in December 2023, has made little progress.

War of words

With the Congress government coming to power in 2023, Karnataka Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, who represents BTM Layout constituency, expressed optimism about the flyover's completion and guaranteed that the construction would be expedited.

Reddy criticized the BJP for diverting funds to constituencies ruled by their MLAs and cited it as one of the reasons that contributed to the delays.

Nevertheless, since January 2023 the work seems to be moving at snail's pace. On top of the inconveniences, the delays also caused the cost of the project to shoot up.

In September 2023, the state government agreed to revise the project cost to ₹307.96 crore during a cabinet meeting. In November 2023, the BBMP once again announced that BSCPL would take over the project, this time with a hard deadline of 15 months as reportedly mentioned in the tender.

Hurdles adding to the halt

In November 2023, the project ran into another hurdle. A proposal was introduced to remove 67 trees to make way for the structure and BBMP removed nine trees on December 1, 2023. This was met with severe opposition by residents and environmentalists.

However, in the context of protests from environmentalists, a special order was issued by the deputy conservator of forest (DCF), BBMP, bringing the work to a grinding halt. The DCF claimed that since some of the environment associations had taken the legal route, the BBMP would have to wait until a direction from the court was issued to resume work.

CM orders BBMP to issue to notice to contractors

In May 2024, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah who was on Bengaluru city rounds, pulled up the contractors for the delay.

"The contractor should be served notice as per law. If they do not respond, terminate the contract," he told BBMP officials.

Nearly a week after the CM's orders, the BBMP issued a notice to the contractor. In a notice dated March 24, the BBMP's Chief Engineer (Project Central) emphasised that the civic body had previously issued multiple instructions to ensure the project's timely completion. The notice pointed out that the contractor had failed to deploy the required number of engineers, establish a casting yard, and provide necessary machinery, such as launching girders and shuttering materials.

The BBMP also observed that the construction of the compound wall, which began in December 2023, had made little progress. "You have failed to remove debris from the site, and no barricades have been provided," the notice stated. The BBMP warned it would act according to the contract terms, including imposing liquidated damages if the company did not address the mentioned issues within seven days.

To be completed in 15 months

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Lokesh M., Chief Engineer, Projects, said that the agency has agreed to speed up the work and start at the earliest, however, the completion of the project would take another 15 months.

"We have served a notice to the agency as per the CM's order and also held a meeting with them instructing to speed up the process. The agency has agreed to establish the requirements in the next 10 days."

"At ground, work has already begun by the agency, only the super structure requires our attention and planning, which we are looking into. It would take another 15 months for the entire project to be complete", he said.

How will the completion of Ejipura flyover help?

The road connecting Madiwala, Koramangala, Ejipura, and finally linking the Inner Ring Road which leads to Indiranagar is expected to bring down the travel time to just 20 minutes.

Currently, severe traffic congestion has been causing inordinate delays, so much so that at peak traffic hours people spend close to an hour covering a 6-km stretch of which the flyover is a part. The flyover is expected to help avoid jampacked traffic junctions like Srinivagilu-Ejipura, Sony World Junction, Koramangala BDA Complex Junction, Madiwala-Sarjapur Water Tank Junction, Kendriya Sadan Junction, and later connect southeast Bengaluru to the western and eastern parts of the city.

Velocity launches Vani AI

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Velocity, India's leading cash flow-based financing platform has rolled out a GenAI powered solution Vani AI, designed to revolutionize customer service interactions for the financial services sector. The AI solution is developed in-house by Bengaluru-based fintech Velocity and can deliver a human-like, interactive customer experience transforming the way financial institutions interact with their customers.

The AI uses voice synthesis and speech recognition technology to understand various languages, dialects and customer responses, which aims to change the way we live and do business. The AI technology unlike traditional robotic IVR calls that offer one-way information flow.

Human-like calls

Saurav Swaroop, Co-Founder and CTO, Velocity, said, " With Vani AI, financial institutions can customize AI agents to make automated, intelligent, and human-like calls across various financial service use cases."

Grinding employment, one coffee bean at a time

The Coffee Board of India in Bengaluru offers a number of courses in an attempt to create a thriving coffee ecosystem

Abhilekh Baruah
Poorvi S
BENGALURU

One of the most popular of these programmes is the 'Kaapi shastra' programme. FILE PHOTO

Coffee isn't just a drink; it is an emotion in Bengaluru. The Coffee Board of India, located in Bengaluru, has been playing a huge role in creating and sustaining a thriving coffee ecosystem in the city. As part of this effort, The Coffee Board of India has been offering several programmes, since 2002, aimed at training more baristas. According to Hari Om, a specialist from the quality division of the Coffee Board of India, coffee giants like Third Wave Coffee, Blue Tokai and Cafe Coffee Day have benefited from these programmes.

'Kaapi Shashtra'

One of the most popular of these programmes is the 'kaapi shastra' programme, a five-day skill development course that helps coffee aficionados learn grinding, roasting, blending and packaging techniques as well as introduces them to some of the latest technologies used in coffee roasting. Srikanth Rao, the Director of Bayar Coffee, was a trainee under the initial batches of kaapi shastra, speaks about how he benefitted from this course.

"You need to have an in-depth knowledge of how sensory evaluation takes place," he says, adding that it has helped enhance his knowledge of coffee. He believes that the course will be of benefit to nearly anyone who wants to know more about coffee, in general.

Another popular course is the barista training programme, introduced by the Coffee Board in 2023, which aims to equip and train baristas in the art of brewing. Hari Om stated that the course has had 100% placements since its inception over the years. The course refines one's coffee knowledge and experience, which further fosters opportunities to integrate with the prevailing cafe culture in Bengaluru, he believes. The barista training programme is offered by Specialty Coffee Association (SCA) certified baristas who conduct training programmes across the country. "A minimum of ten SCA specialists are employed by the board for the training programme", he adds.

Coffee Quality Management

"One of the best achievements for the Coffee Board laboratory is that we got accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)," he says before going into the board's longest course: a year-long PG Diploma in Coffee Quality Management. Prasanna Gudi, the Director of Coffee at the Mumbai-based Subko Roasters, an alumnus of this course, holds it in high regard.

As someone who changed career paths to enter the coffee industry, the diploma was life-changing, he says, while Sunil Pinto, who now helps manage the family's coffee estate in Coorg, adds that the PG Diploma programme helped him understand the bean better. "Coffee was only about growing it and selling it, just like any other activity," he says. However, the comprehensive course helped him understand what it meant to "create coffee," he believes.

For more details, interested candidates can contact the organisers by email at baristatraining.coffeeboard@gmail.com.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 12, 1974

Karnataka PCC President Poll

Bangalore, June 11. The general body of the Karnataka PCC will meet in Hubli on July 27 for the election of the president, according to a decision taken here to-day by the executive.

The election of a new President has been necessitated on account of the present incumbent, Mr. K.H. Ranganath joining the Cabinet earlier this month. He continued to hold the presidentship of the PCC even after he became the Transport Minister. There have been persistent demands in sections of the PCC that a full-time President must be found in the interest of the party organisation. The election of the President of the PCC is expected to create a major controversy within the party in the wake of the emergence of dissidents in the legislature party opposed to the Chief Minister, Mr. D. Devaraj Urs. There has been a lot of speculation about the choice of the official candidate for the post of President. There were also indications here today that there would be a contest.

Fake Notes Seized, Gang of Nine held

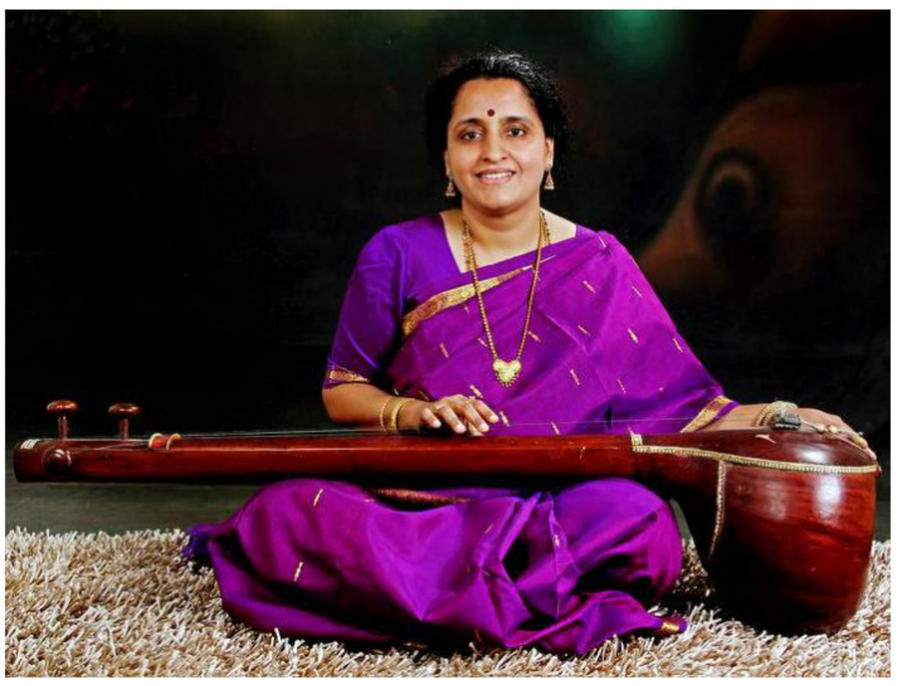
Bangalore, June 11. The Karnataka CID recently tracked down a gang of nine engaged in counterfeiting hundred rupees currency notes. In all 150 hundred rupees fake notes had been seized.

The Inspector General of Police, Mr. C.V.S. Rao told newsmen to-day that forged hundred rupee notes were first detected in Bellary and investigation disclosed that they were being smuggled into Bellary from Andhra Pradesh. Two persons near Kakinada were arrested first and later the rest of the gang.

Wild women, wise women

Arundhathi Subramaniam and Chitra Srikrishna will present a jugalbandi of performance poetry and musical rendering to celebrate the plurality of spiritual temperaments

Ranjani Govind



Everyday goddesses (From left) Arundhathi Subramaniam, Chitra Srikrishna and Deepikaa Sreenivasan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Why do we hear so little about women mystic poets? For poet Arundhathi Subramaniam and Carnatic vocalist Chitra Srikrishna, this quest led them to discovering women mystics and their works; the duo will present their learnings as a jugalbandi at the Indian Music Experience in Bengaluru on June 16.

In a bid at creative experimentation, Wild Women - A jugalbandi will be based on Arundhathi's latest book, an anthology of sacred Indian poetry titled *Wild Women: Seekers, Protagonists and Goddesses in Sacred Indian Poetry* while Chitra will present a few verses in melody.

"The idea for a *jugalbandi* with poet Arundhathi came about through our mutual passion for Bhakti poetry. I had invited her as a guest speaker when I was handling a music appreciation course at the Ahmedabad University, where I delved into the roots of the Bhakti movement, the works of the mystic poets and their social impact. Arundhathi shared her insights of the Bhakti mystics and their poetry. During the pandemic, we began discussing a collaboration inspired by our shared love for this poetic tradition," says Chitra.

For Chitra, this *jugalbandi* is a natural corollary to the success of her previous musical production, *Bhakti - A Musical Journey with Mystics,* presented at local and global platforms. "Our aim with this unique collaboration is to blend Arundhathi's insights on Bhakti poetry with my musical interpretation, creating a new experience that delves deeper into the essence of mysticism and music with an emphasis on sacred feminine outpourings, based on her book," she says.

Did the two choose verses to suit *raga* and *tala*? "This program is a creative dialogue, where Arundhathi will present a poem and I will follow it with a musical interpretation, with Deepikaa Sreenivasan on the *mridanga*. Some of the selected poems have been previously set to music by renowned musicians such as Pt. Kumar Gandharva and Lata Mangeshkar, while others, such as the Kashmiri verses by Lal Ded or Rupa Bhavani, I have newly set to music," says Chitra.

Understanding the deep-rooted significance ingrained in the poetic verses was fundamental to Chitra in order to score the right *raga* and cadence. "The selection of poems was a collaborative process; I approached the selection from a musical perspective and considered its appeal to a diverse audience. The poems to be sung in this *jugalbandi* span various languages, including Tamil, Kannada, Hindi, Sanskrit, Marathi, and Kashmiri."

While engaging with the poems of Arundathi's book, Chitra says she realised how little she knew about Bhakti poetry. "The poets were unfamiliar, the vernacular poetry in its original form was diverse, as were the nuances of poetry appreciation including rhyme and alliteration."

The book celebrates the divine feminine by showcasing the poetic expressions from lesser known gems such as 14th century Kashmiri Lalleshwari (also known as Lal Ded) and the Tamil pet Avudai Akkal, to well-known figures such as Andal and Meera.

"Translation plays a crucial role in unlocking the beauty of vernacular poetry, allowing us to appreciate the lyrical elegance and the profound insights of these poets," says Chitra.

Wild Women - A Jugalbandi will take place at the Indian Music Experience on June 16 from 6-7pm

Not for the faint of heart

Arundhathi Subramaniam spoke to *Metroplus* on her recent book where the mystery of female mystics unfold:

Tell us a little about *Wild Women...*

As a poet and seeker, I've had a long-standing fascination with sacred literature in this subcontinent. *Wild Women*, was fueled by my curiosity about the female mystic poets of this land. As I started my research, I found myself fascinated by the innumerable audacious women in this subcontinent — so many unmapped, and undocumented. This unfolded into an archive of women sacred poets of this continent — a reminder of some astonishingly feisty, irreverent sacred ancestors who deserve to be much better known.

Would you say the book is a must read for anyone exploring the Bhakti movement?

This is not merely an anthology of Bhakti poets. This is an anthology of women of varied spiritual persuasions. There are early Buddhist nuns, *tantrikas, bhaktas, Vedantins*, Sufis — the whole gamut. Some are contemplative, some devotional, others are intellectual, and still others deeply emotional.

Could you tell us about a few of them?

Although the women in these pages are seekers and mystics, their poems are not merely about the ecstasy of *moksha*. These poems are also about subversion and social critique. The slave girl, Punnika, empowered by the Buddha's teaching of equality, asked pertinent questions about caste inequality and ended up converting a ritualistic Brahmin. This happened 2,500 years ago! Soyarabai, the 14th century Dalit woman mystic from Maharashtra, wrote a poem in which she asks why menstruation is considered impure when it is the very basis of human life. The later Tamil Brahmin child widow, Avudai Akkal, questioned notions of ritual impurity. These are not docile women by any means. These are wild and wise women.

CITYBEATS

Feast for fathers

JUNE 16

To celebrate Father's Day, Klaa Kitchen is introducing a Father's Day feast. The menu will feature dishes by chef Rhea Aaron inspired by classic family recipes that have been passed down through generations of the Aaron household such as fish caldine, prawn rissios with balchao dip and more.

Klaa Kitchen is at 846, Indiranagar 1st stage.

Under the spotlight

JUNE 15, 16

Tahatto will conduct an introductory theatre workshop, which is designed around theatre exercises and activities to give aspiring artistes a first-hand experience of theatre.

Seats are limited and the workshop is priced at ₹4,799 per person.

At Atta Galatta, Indiranagar.
Call 9632510126 for details.

Right write

JUNE 21 TO 25

There will be a online session on personality profiling and understanding traits using handwriting between June 21 to 25, with an introduction to graphology and its benefits. The sessions will be facilitated by SS Suchitra Tarun (graphologist) and Urja Sagar Shah (handwriting, signature and drawing analyst). Last date to register is June 18.

Mail applications.india@iso-sec.com for details

Flavours of Cambodia

Khmer Kitchen will be hosting 'Khmer Konnection: A Culinary Journey,' a food festival from June 14 to 16.

This event will showcase the diverse flavours of Cambodian cuisine, featuring a six-course meal prepared by renowned Cambodian chefs Kimsan Pol, Chhon Bunchhou, and Srey Bora.

Kimsan, the culinary director of Embassy and Sombok, is an expert in Khmer cuisine, recognised for her innovative culinary creations and cultural contributions.

Chef Srey, executive chef at Restaurant Collection Siem Reap and vice-president of the Cambodia Young Chef Association, blends traditional Khmer flavours with global influences.

Chef Chhon, executive chef at Golden Temple Group, is also known for his expertise in fusion cuisine.

The festival offers vegetarian and non-vegetarian set menus. Each course is designed to take diners on a journey through Cambodia's culinary landscape, including two amuse bouches and a choice of three drinks (three flutes of wine or gin cocktails).

"We are really excited to bring the vibrant and diverse flavours of Cambodia to our guests through 'Khmer Konnection,' and I'm sure it will be a memorable culinary experience that showcases the depth and richness of Khmer cuisine," says Naveen Reddy, Managing Partner at Khmer Kitchen.

The meal is priced at ₹3,999 per head. June 14 - 16, lunch and dinner. At JP Nagar. For more details, call: 7337808157

Everything flaming hot

EATING OUT

Priyamedha Dutta

Down by the fireside Dining at Flamecraft is an experiece of the rustic and refined. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

We all remember the childhood history classes on human evolution, where men started hunting their food and learned to cook on fire that paved the way for our culinary adventures across centuries.

Humans have evolved since then, wood fires have been replaced by ovens and gas stoves whereas open-fire cooking has only been a part of our backyard activity occasionally for special occasions.

While wood-fire cooking has been huge in the West from fine dining to steak houses, the trend is quickly becoming a part of India's restaurant scene. One such restaurant with an exciting new menu has opened up in Bengaluru. Fireside: Flame Craft Dining situated in the heart of Kalyan Nagar, is an ode to open-flame cooking.

A brainchild of Priyanka Alve with co-founders and chefs Rajat Alve, Vineeth M and Pramodh H, Fireside is their effort to 'harness fire's raw energy to craft a unique dining experience.'

As we entered the space, the first thing that caught our eye was the open kitchen right in the centre with its open-fire grills, and wood-fired ovens, providing guests with a front-row view of the culinary excitement unfolding within.

We were suggested to try out their 10-course tasting menu, which promised an overview of the entire concept.

As we waited for our course to start, we sipped on their in-house Kombuchas, while gazing on the display of Kombucha cultures gently brewing on one side adding to the experience.

Soon the food started arriving, with chefs meticulously explaining every dish. For Course 1 we had chicken thigh and leeks in Alabama sauce and pickled *bimbli* that became the surprise element in this simple chicken skewer dish.

Fireside: Flame Craft Dining
Hits: Smoked pork ribs
Misses: Lobster veil in seafood broth
Wallet factor: ₹3500 per person

Course 2 was lamb ragu topped with parmesan foam, parsely oil and bits of pasta crisps. The minced lamb was flavoured well with spices and the pasta crips helped cut through the dense flavour from the spicy lamb.

Course 3 was coconut crumb prawn on *kung som* and *basil aioli sauce*. What really added to the dish was the bits of *nori* sprinkled from top. Course 4 was lobster veil drowned in a seafood broth with spring vegetables and kaffir lime. This light broth was a refreshing break from the earlier three heavy courses. Moving on to Course 5, Goan *poi* stuffed with chicken tossed in *cafreal* sauce, feta cream and arugula. The bread was soft (proof of being right out of the oven), and a must-try dish when at Fireside.

Course 6 was palate cleanser, fermented orange ice with passion fruit, which only made us more eager for the following courses.

Course 7 was a complete surprise, eight-hour smoked pork ribs with pineapple *chimichurri* and apple glaze. The meat was extremely well done, practically dropping off the bone. It complemented the tangy *chimichurri*.

Course 8 was Spanish delicacy, seafood *paella,* with oven-baked seabass, edamame and eureka lemon. The dish tasted as exotic as it sounded. You know a *paella* is well done when you can taste the light charred flavour of rice.

Course 9 was a palate cleanser, a ginger beer bomb, drizzled with forest honey sitting on top of mosambi beads, the ginger bomb exploded in my mouth, something I did not anticipate at all.

By the time the dessert arrived, we had to catch our breath, no matter how full you feel there is always wee bit of space left for the dessert. Our Course 9 was ember coconut and semolina sponge, coconut sprout, mulberry, 73% cocoa soil and rum. What sounds like too many elements on a plate is a perfectly balanced dessert especially if you are not a fan of anything too sweet.

The tasting menu is priced at ₹3500 per person.

INBRIEF

CM, Dy. CM receive Rahul Gandhi at KIA in Bengaluru

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi arrived at the Kempe Gowda International Airport on Tuesday and he was received by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar.

Mr. Gandhi was travelling to Wayanad in Kerala from New Delhi, via Bengaluru.

Mr. Gandhi contested from Wayanad and Rae Bareli constituencies in the recent Lok Sabha and won both the seats. Now he has to decide which seat to vacate.

Dasara jumbo Ashwathama dies at its camp in Nagarahole

Ashwathama

Thirty-eight-year-old Dasara elephant Ashwathama died at its camp in Nagarahole Tiger Reserve on Tuesday. It is suspected that the jumbo was electrocuted after it came in contact with a solar fence at Bheemanakatte Elephant Camp in Ane Chowkur range.

A press release from the director of Nagarahole Tiger Reserve said the elephant was tied to its usual place by its staff on Monday at the camp. The next morning, when the jumbo staff went to see the animal around 5.30 a.m., it was lying on the ground. On inspection, the staff realised the elephant was dead. They informed the higher officials who rushed to the camp.

The Bheemanakatte jumbo camp has been fenced with solar barriers to prevent the entry of wild elephants and for the safety of the camp staff, the note said.

The post-mortem was conducted and the report is awaited.

All set for Naidu to take oath as A.P. Chief Minister today

TDP president elected as leader of National Democratic Alliance in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly by alliance partners; Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend swearing-in ceremony

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Governor S. Abdul Nazeer on Tuesday invited Telugu Desam Party national president N. Chandrababu Naidu to form the government in the State.

The swearing-in ceremony will be held at Kesarapalle, near Vijayawada, at 11.27 a.m. on Wednesday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a host of national leaders are scheduled to attend.

Earlier in the day, at a meeting in the city, Mr. Naidu was unanimously elected leader of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly by the alliance partners – Janasena Party and the Bharatiya Janata Party.

All smiles: TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu meeting Governor S. Abdul Nazeer in Vijayawada on Tuesday. ANI

The MLAs-elect from the NDA constituent parties attended the meeting besides Mr. Naidu, Janasena president Pawan Kalyan and BJP State president Daggubati Purandeswari.

Mr. Pawan Kalyan proposed the name of Mr. Naidu as the leader of the NDA in the Assembly, which was unanimously approved by all partners.

Later, representatives of the NDA met the Governor and staked claim to form the government in Andhra Pradesh. TDP State president K. Atchannaidu, Ms. Purandeswari, and Janasena Parliamentary Affairs Committee chairman Nadendla Manohar met the Governor and submitted the letter.

Meanwhile, the MLAs-elect of the Janasena elected Pawan Kalyan as their floor leader. The hot topic of discussion among the political circles currently is that Mr. Pawan Kalyan might be proposed as Deputy Chief Minister and that the Janasena might get five berths in the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet. The BJP is being tipped to get two Cabinet posts.

Come clear on privatisation of steel plants, Congress urges Kumaraswamy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday posed a series of questions to the new Steel Minister, H.D. Kumaraswamy, on the issue of disinvestment and privatisation of steel plants, including the ones at Visakhapatnam and Salem.

In a statement, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said Mr. Kumaraswamy is the new Steel Minister in a "rusted" government, and posed a set of five questions relating to steel plants in Visakhapatnam, Salem, Nagarnar, Bhadrawati and Durgapur.

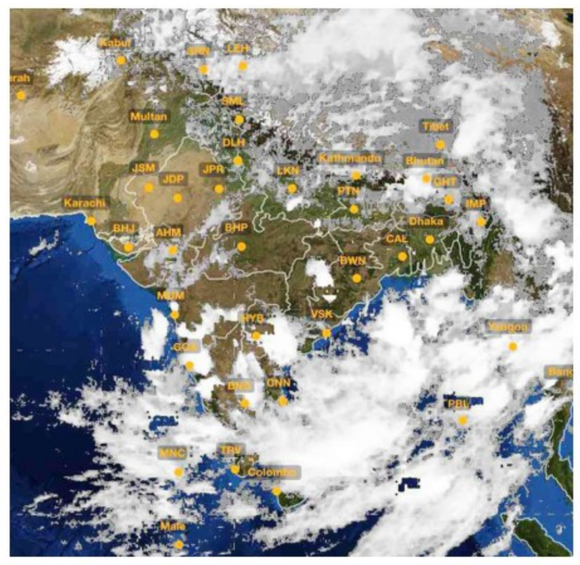
'Deliberate negligence'

Mr. Ramesh said the previous Modi government had proposed the sale of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), commonly known as the Vizag Steel Plant, to the "Prime Minister's friends". He said more than one lakh people rely on it for their livelihoods. The RINL unions had been peacefully protesting since January 2021, when the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval for 100 per cent privatisation of RINL, its joint ventures, and subsidiaries. Employees report that deliberate government negligence is pushing the once-thriving steel plant into losses, he added.

"Will Mr. Kumaraswamy provide a written commitment that he will not sell the Vizag Steel Plant to the 'one-third' Pradhan Mantri's industrialist friends," Mr. Ramesh asked. The issue is an important one as the BJP's key ally, the Telugu Desam Party, had strongly opposed the Vizag plant divestment proposal.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Telangana, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe. Heat wave/severe heat wave conditions likely at a few/isolated places over Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.8	36.6	26.8	Kozhikode	10	31.7	24.9
Ahmedabad	30	40.4	25.5	Kurnool	0.1	33.4	25.8
Aizawl	4	34.1	22.6	Lucknow	—	44.7	31.0
Allahabad	—	47.1	31.8	Madurai	—	38.3	26.5
Bengaluru	3	29.2	21.6	Mangaluru	50	29.8	23.6
Bhopal	—	39.3	27.4	Mumbai	15	32.6	25.0
Bhubaneswar	—	38.4	28.0	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	43.7	27.5	New Delhi	—	43.8	28.0
Chennai	—	36.5	27.4	Patna	—	42.7	31.0
Coimbatore	—	32.6	23.2	Port Blair	63	29.5	23.7
Dehradun	—	41.8	23.8	Puducherry	—	37.1	27.8
Gangtok	102	21.3	18.3	Pune	7.7	31.5	22.4
Goa	10	30.6	25.8	Raipur	—	42.6	29.7
Guwahati	—	30.9	27.5	Ranchi	—	40.7	26.3
Hubballi	—	27.0	23.0	Shillong	0.5	26.8	18.0
Hyderabad	0.5	31.7	24.4	Shimla	—	34.1	22.4
Imphal	—	33.7	17.6	Srinagar	—	30.5	12.7
Jaipur	—	43.5	32.5	Thiruvananthapuram	5	32.5	24.6
Kochi	—	31.0	25.8	Tiruchi	—	36.8	26.6
Kohima	—	27.0	18.2	Vijayawada	2	36.0	27.2
Kolkata	—	37.4	29.8	Visakhapatnam	—	34.0	28.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.16	101	.28	51	54	
Bengaluru	.14	.21	.79	40	51	
Chennai	.30	.24	106	33	33	
Delhi	.32	.77	.55	346	339	
Hyderabad	.6	109	.31	38	—	
Kolkata	.10	.21	.32	28	55	
Lucknow	.9	.52	.39	117	141	
Mumbai	.6	.39	.35	35	107	
Pune	.—	.61	.83	38	48	
Visakhapatnam	.10	.61	.35	57	117	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Dhanbad, Jharkhand recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 355 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Davanagere, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 21

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Union Coal and Mines Minister Kishan Reddy to announce 'mission 100 days agenda' soon

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy has said that he will announce his Ministry's 'mission 100 days agenda' within a couple of days after holding discussions with top officials. One of the goals will be to enhance revenue generation for Central and State governments through coal extraction and supply to power plants.

Talking to the media in New Delhi on Monday night, the Minister said coal played a crucial role to meet the country's power needs and development.

The coal mines are mostly in the control of the State governments with several private sector firms involved as partners in the extraction and supply. The country had faced power cuts before 2014 and post Prime Minister Narendra Modi coming to power, these issues have been tackled efficiently by increasing coal production and thereby power production, he said.

The demand for power is increasing across the country for domestic, agriculture, and industries purposes. Unlike the "scams" during the Congress led regimes, the NDA governments have not only prevented them but had also introduced progressive measures, he said.

THE HINDU
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Candidates, intending to apply for CRP RRBs - XIII should ensure that they fulfil the minimum eligibility criteria on the stipulated date as specified in the detailed notification issued and hosted on authorised website by IBPS.

Activity	Tentative Dates
Online registration including Edit/ Modification of Application & Payment of Application Fees/Intimation Charges	07.06.2024 to 27.06.2024
Conduct of Pre-Exam Training (PET) ●	22.07.2024 to 27.07.2024
Online Examination - Preliminary	August, 2024
Result of Online exam - Preliminary	August/ September, 2024
Online Examination - Main / Single	September/ October, 2024

● PET may be conducted either in Online Mode or Physical Mode.
Candidates are advised to regularly visit the authorised IBPS website www.ibps.in for details and updates.
Before registering online, candidates are advised to read the detailed notification carefully and follow the instructions mentioned therein.
Mumbai
Date: 07.06.2024
Director

M BG-BGE

Continuity, stability

The BJP has kept important portfolios for itself despite the new reality

The composition of the new Union Council of Ministers, and the distribution of portfolios, are meant to be seen as an emphatic assertion of authority by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has won a third term, as leader of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) fell short of an absolute majority in the Lok Sabha by more than 30 seats, but the Council is a signature of continuity from the first two terms. Unlike the previous two terms, partners are crucial for the NDA in the third, but they have political reasons to remain aligned with the BJP. The continuation of all key Ministers in the Cabinet Committee on Security and those in charge of infrastructure portfolios suggests that no dramatic shift in policy should be expected in Mr. Modi's third term, coalition or not. The TDP, JD(U), JD(S), the Shiv Sena faction led by Eknath Shinde, the NCP faction led by Ajit Pawar, and the LJP led by Chirag Paswan, have all accepted this reality, bickering by some of them notwithstanding. The composition of the Council is in line with the BJP's strategy of seeking deeper and wider acceptance among Hindu communities across the length and breadth of the country, and representation for Christians and Sikhs, with the notable exclusion of Muslims.

Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman and S. Jaishankar continue in their previous roles, as Ministers for Defence, Home, Finance and External Affairs, respectively. Mr. Modi evidently trusts them, and their performance, though in the case of Mr. Singh and Mr. Shah, political reasons are also at play. Apart from piloting India's defence ambitions, Mr. Singh is also expected to use his famed diplomatic skills to deal with politically sensitive issues such as the Agnipath recruitment scheme for the military. Mr. Jaishankar did a commendable job of carefully balancing India's traditional ties and emerging interests in the previous term. While improving ties with the United States, he has managed to protect the strategic autonomy of India, now with an additional Hindutva hue. Ms. Sitharaman steered the economy through the COVID-19 pandemic turmoil, and has been a champion of its prospects. She has, however, not managed the contentious questions of Centre-State fiscal relations very well. Mr. Shah has a long list of politically sensitive issues to tackle in his new term – completion of the Census operation, transition of the criminal justice system with the implementation of the new criminal codes, and Centre-State relations, among other things. The Ministers have their task cut out, and stability helps. They will also be called upon to exercise wisdom.

Facts in fiction

No ban on books or films can be justified in the name of upholding order

The likelihood of protests, communal tension or prejudice to law and order ought not to be cited as a reason to suspend the screening of a film. The Karnataka government's decision to stop the release of the Hindi film, *Hamare Baarah*, for two weeks violates the freedom of expression in the name of upholding order and preventing communal tension. Such a ban on public screening of films, independent of their merit, has no place in a democratic society. The Bombay High Court, which initially stayed the release of *Hamare Baarah*, has lifted the ban, following the producer's offer to remove some controversial dialogues. Its observation that allowing an individual to stall the release of a certified film would encourage film producers being held to ransom is consistent with judicial precedents. Once it is certified by the Central Board of Film Certification, presumably after proper scrutiny of its suitability for public viewing, there ought to be no scope for a second opinion by a law enforcement authority. The position that a work, be it a book or a play or a film, may be proscribed under threat of protests or likely violence has been rebuffed by the Supreme Court of India in some landmark verdicts. "... freedom of expression cannot be suppressed on account of threat of demonstration and processions or threats of violence," the Court said in its 1989 judgment in *S. Rangarajan vs P. Jagjivan Ram* on the film, *Ore Oru Gramathile*.

The emphasis on freedom of expression does not mean that one should endorse any film whose content is distasteful or obnoxious or contains vile propaganda. As for the film now under the scanner, there is reason to believe that such criticism is justified, beginning with the overt communal overtones in its title itself. Its posters and synopsis suggest that the film draws upon sectarian allegations that the Muslim community is responsible for population growth and that its men force women to bear many children, in utter disregard of their health and well-being. The film's proponents may claim it is about spreading awareness on population control, and that watching the film may dispel such an impression. However, it cannot be denied that contemporary film-making has made stereotyping the Muslim community a significant trend. Any film that gives prominence to the claim that members of the community have more children, must be aimed at pandering to communal sections and the political establishment that encourages them. If the country is to be a free and open society, there is no need to suppress any point of view. At the same time, it must also develop the wherewithal to counter sectarian propaganda with facts and without resort to unconstitutional methods.

India's looming financial crisis

Ashoka Mody

teaches at Princeton University. He previously worked for the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and is the author of 'India is Broken: A People Betrayed, Independence to Today' (2023)

Rapid credit growth is akin to a siren song. It lures economies with the promise of prosperity only to lead them into crises. Each financial boom is framed as a story of financial innovation and good times. But each new story is just whipped-up frenzy, it is, in economist Robert Shiller's words, "irrational exuberance". As the economists Carmen Reinhart and Kenneth Rogoff explained in their celebrated history of financial folly, governments and market participants dismiss previous crises that followed credit booms by invoking the mantra "this time is different".

A lofty and dangerous narrative

India is in the midst of similar folly, driven by policymakers wedded to an unhinged hype about the country's performance and prospects. The 'this-time-is-different' theme touts India's digital infrastructure as the catalyst for financial innovation and inclusion, promising growth and equality. Ironically, this lofty narrative has enabled a poorly regulated financial sector and consumers living beyond their means to generate a lending surge.

Both international and domestic analysts are applauding this surge. In December 2023, the Board of Directors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) praised the performance of the Indian financial sector, citing robust growth in bank lending and low levels of non-performing assets. Similarly, the March 2024 review of National Council of Applied Economic Research cheered a 20% increase in bank lending over the previous year, interpreting the particularly large increase in "personal loans" – while lending to industry struggled – as signalling bright prospects.

This celebration of credit growth deflects attention from the deep-rooted jobs' and human capital deficit; and it extends the hype into dangerous territory. The truth is that when lending expands, the financial sector looks in good health as new loans pay off old ones. But the house of cards collapses when lending slows and options for more loans to repay earlier obligations get shut. The IMF knows this history well: heavily indebted households and businesses sharply reduce spending to repay their debt, causing an economic crunch.

This distressing script is set to repeat for India especially because of the feverish expansion of households lending at between 25% and 30% a year. As financial intermediaries have pushed their loans, many lower- and middle-income households have viewed the funds as easy cash to make ends meet or to buy homes, gadgets and cars, pay for education, and indulge in 'lifestyle' spending, including vacations and elective medical procedures.

A household debt boom is a quintessentially "bad" boom. It does not add to productive capacity but, instead, bids up domestic prices, making the country less competitive. As economists Atif Mian and Amir Sufi report: the higher the household debt burden, the steeper the crash that follows. Add to the bad credit boom a stock market rising unmoored from weak corporate investment and anaemic consumer spending, an overvalued exchange rate, and a tendency for Indian authorities to talk up dodgy data, and India presents a textbook example of the key elements that signal a looming financial crisis. The financial crisis will cause not just economic pain but will also degrade the economy's long-term well-being.

> The country presents a textbook example of the key elements that signal an emerging calamity

While the two terms of the Modi government have brought us to this moment, three decades of economic and financial policy are culpable. Unable to generate job-rich manufacturing growth, successive policymakers have pushed the financial services industry to raise headline GDP growth rates: in the last decade, the financial sector has contributed over a quarter of GDP growth.

A chaotic financial services industry

Making matters worse, Indian-style liberalisation has promoted a large and chaotic financial services industry. At the top are 30-odd large providers – scheduled commercial banks and major non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs), all with a history of rogue behaviour. Alongside, thousands of smaller players, including fly-by-night NBFCs and new fintechs operate in dubious ways.

The problem is simple. There are too many financial services' providers with too few options to lend for productivity-enhancement projects. Indeed, over time, lending opportunities have narrowed as the Indian corporate sector has reduced its investment-GDP ratio and borrowing pace. Financial institutions have, therefore, been under great pressure to generate profits.

From the start of economic liberalisation in 1991, the search for easy profits spawned scams. But especially after COVID-19, financial services providers redirected lending toward households eager to borrow in lieu of stagnant incomes. The newly emergent fintechs led this charge by offering loans to desperate households at extortionary interest rates. A new set of scammers preyed on the gullible. Yet, some borrowers became addicted to such loans.

Today, a dangerously growing share (approaching a quarter) of household loans is "unsecured," backed by no collateral. The poster child for unsecured consumer borrowing is credit card debt. In January 2024, Indians owned almost 100 million credit cards, up from 20 million in 2011. While the cards bring convenience, aggressively peddling them to low-creditworthy individuals builds up stress for both borrowers and the financial system. As the Reserve Bank puts it, explosive credit card growth has attracted "below-prime" or riskier borrowers.

Twenty-five-year-old Rohan (not his real name) is an example. He used his card to buy a TV, a laptop, and a smartphone. Drawn by rewards, cashbacks, and "no-interest EMIs" (which bundle interest costs into the purchase price and upfront fees), he quickly fell behind on payments and soon was neck-deep in debt.

Eventually, he took a cheaper loan to pay off his credit card dues. Multiply the Rohans manifold and you have a macroeconomic threat point.

Indian household debt, at 40% of GDP, is low by international standards, but household debt-service-to-income ratio, at 12%, is among the highest in the world because of high interest rates and predominantly short duration loans. Indeed, the Indian household debt-service ratio is alarmingly similar to that in the United States and Spain just before their 2008 financial crises, when high household debt-service burdens precipitated major economic downturns.

The economist Rudi Dornbusch's warning applies to India: "The crisis takes a much longer time in coming than you think, and then it happens faster than you would have thought."

The source of the impending crisis lies in a paradox: despite buoyant credit growth, household consumption is increasing at an excruciatingly slow pace. Households are struggling; their savings rates have declined and they are boosting meagre consumption by borrowing money. Soon, it will no longer be possible to repay old loans with new ones and consumption could even contract. The crisis will come initially through such macroeconomic contraction; defaults on loans will follow. The initial defaults will topple more dominoes, a consequence of the interconnected nature of banks, NBFCs, and fintechs. Cascading defaults will induce more economic contraction and financial sector distress.

A solution

The 2024 general election results might diffuse the India hype, but a sudden stop in credit could trigger a crisis. Preventing the crisis requires surgically downsizing the financial services industry to better match lending capacity and productive borrowing needs, and weakening the rupee to help expand exports and cushion the downturn when it comes. History makes clear that rapid credit growth and an overvalued exchange rate are a lethal combination.

But policy change is unlikely. In opposition to Joan Robinson's dictum that finance must follow growth, Indian policymakers have committed themselves to the notion that finance will spur growth and help overcome the country's severe developmental handicaps in human capital and other public goods. Policymakers are also committed to a strong exchange rate as a metric of the nation's virility. Meanwhile, as the risks of a financial crisis grow, an acute job shortage persists, reflected most poignantly in a catastrophic regression of the workforce back to agriculture.

India's heavily credit-reliant economic strategy is akin to a car speeding toward a cliff's edge without brakes. Sadly, the nation's financial and policy elite has adopted a see-no-evil attitude. After all, the weak and vulnerable will bear the burden of the crisis, as the dire employment situation becomes worse – and stark inequalities become starker.

The social sciences, a shelter for the 'excluded' student

M. Suresh Babu

is Director, Madras Institute of Development Studies

The general election is just over and a sizable share of India's youth is scrambling for college admissions; their contributions are crucial in realising the dream of Viksit Bharat@2047.

The month of May was important for the youth of India as the results of many examinations were released, generating ecstasy, agony, and heartbreaks. The publication of results triggers a rush for seats in higher education institutions, and, in turn, another series of examinations to qualify for these. This transition to higher education is important as it determines the quantity and quality of human capital, which is vital for economic growth. In developing economies, including India, this transition is plagued by a mismatch between demand and supply. The extent of excess seats in some courses and institutions, and shortages in some others, determines the magnitude of exclusion in the system. Persistence of exclusion leads to a scenario of courses in some disciplines emerging as the last resort for higher education for a large section of students, culminating in the creation of a reservoir of the excluded. Recent trends in India reveal that the social sciences are turning out to be one such large reservoir.

The reasons

Demand-supply mismatches in higher education arise due to the incongruence between aspirations of students and parents, and the availability of courses and seats, which is determined by market forces in private institutions and government policies in public institutions. Perpetual discrepancies in the system lead to three types of exclusions: exclusion due to excessive competition; exclusion due to financial factors, and exclusion based on subjects and courses of study. The first is evident in the case of premier institutions, which have multiple rounds of filtering mechanisms. The fact that these are few and command high social prestige and pole position in the labour market intensifies competition to enter, resulting in focused elimination. The second is common in the case of private institutions as fee fixation is not bound by statutory regulations and is often akin to dynamic pricing in other services. Reduction in government financial grants to public institutions has pushed these institutions to resort to self-financing through higher fees. The third kind of exclusion is due to systemic issues as the availability of courses and institutions gets concentrated in some specific regions, with other regions having generic courses (with outdated topics and syllabus). The prevalence of these three types of exclusions undermines the quality of human capital in the long run.

> However, in an era of disruptive change, reaping India's demographic dividend depends on how the vast pool of social science students is tapped

According to the 2021-22 All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), the growth of enrolment during the period 2017-18 to 2021-22 for the undergraduate (UG) level is 4.1% and the post graduate level, 5.9%. The Bachelor of Arts (BA) programme, which has the highest enrolment at the UG level, registered an increase of around 15% from 2017-18. There is an increase of 26.5% in the Master of Arts (MA) programmes from 2017-18 to 2021-22. The share of enrolment in the BA programme in total enrolment of BA, BSc and BCom is 51% in regular mode and 75% in distance mode, while the corresponding share for MA is 12% (regular) and 42% (distance). The larger share and a lower transition indicates that BA programmes are turning out to be a generic pool, accommodating a large number of students who are excluded for a variety of reasons.

The surge of empirical orientation

There are stark differences in preferences for courses within the social sciences. Three things have contributed to this. First, there is a rise in popularity for courses with more empirical orientation as employability for such graduates is perceived to be higher. Courses in economics are preferred more on this ground when compared to courses in anthropology or sociology. Second, there is an overemphasis on acquiring policy intervention skills. The expectation that social science students need to develop problem-solving skills akin to engineering students has grown overtime, resulting in narrower specialisation within the social sciences. Third, there is the emergence of private universities that promise to provide global education in India, which has generated demand from a narrow section of the affluent population. Ironically, courses which are demanded the least in public institutions, such as anthropology, sociology and political science, are in high demand in these private universities, which have emerged as enclaves of higher quality for the affluent.

Improving quality

Higher education in the social sciences – the lens for observing and understanding changes in society, economy and polity – needs an overhaul at all levels. Quantity expansion to accommodate excluded aspirants of other disciplines needs to be followed up with a concerted effort for quality improvement. Teaching quality enhancement and course contents needs to be accorded top priority in such a mission. An obsession with policy and empirical skills has pushed some disciplines and programmes to the periphery. Financial exclusion has resulted in the widening of inequalities and the creation of elite enclaves of education in the social sciences. The aspiration of reaping demographic dividend rests on tapping a vast pool of youth studying the social sciences, which assumes significance in an era of social changes and rapid technological advancements such as generative artificial intelligence.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The cabinet

The manner in which the various Ministries have been allocated has demonstrated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not even a wee bit constrained by the reality of his having to depend on his major NDA allies for his government's very survival. But the Prime Minister, regrettably this time around too, has failed to live by his oft-repeated motto of '*Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas-Sabka Vishwas*' by ignoring to include, even symbolically, one member in his Cabinet from the Muslim community This does not augur well for our representative democracy.

S.K. Choudhury,
Bengaluru

The Prime Minister should understand the importance of a consensus approach. Most States are in need of financial help and it is more than important that the Centre helps them without any political bias.

Bal Govind,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Corrections & Clarifications

A sentence in "The giant killer" ('Profiles' page, June 9, 2024) read "... the election was between Ms. Thakor and local strongman Shankar Chaudhary, who is now the Gujarat Assembly Speaker and the head of the Banas Dairy, which has an annual turnover of ₹15,000, ... It should have been ₹15,000 crore.

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Arrest, agencies, and criminal courts

R.K. Vij

is a former Indian Police Service officer. Views are personal

The Supreme Court did not mince words in May 2024, while delivering two significant judgments that impact the liberty of people accused of criminal offences. The first judgment says that the custody of an accused is not necessary prior to the filing of the charge sheet in certain criminal cases. If the lower courts strictly comply with the directives in this judgment, it would bring relief to investigating agencies.

The second judgment relates to informing an accused of the grounds of arrest in writing. This is a fundamental right under Article 22 of the Constitution. While this judgment was delivered in the context of special statutes – namely, the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967 – it will be relevant to see whether these directives can equally be extended to provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) as far as communication of grounds of arrest is concerned.

Filing of charge sheet

In *Siddharth v. State of Uttar Pradesh and Another* (2021), the Supreme Court held that it is unnecessary for the investigating officer (IO) to present the accused in custody at the time of filing the charge sheet if the accused has been cooperating in the investigation and if the investigation can be completed without arresting the accused. The Court held that Section 170 of the CrPC does not impose an obligation on the officer-in-charge of a police station to arrest each and every accused at the time of filing the charge sheet. Therefore, it is not justified under law for criminal courts to refuse to accept the charge sheet without the accused person being produced before them. The Court further said that if the charge sheet is not accepted for any such reason, then attention of the Sessions Judge should be drawn to these facts and a suitable order given.

The Supreme Court recently delivered two significant judgments that impact the liberty of people accused of criminal offences

This implies that in bailable cases and in those non-bailable cases in which the IO thinks that the accused will neither abscond nor disobey summons, the IO is not obliged to produce such an accused in custody while filing the charge sheet in court.

However, the reality is that the IOs sometimes struggle to file charge sheets in criminal courts. In cases of riots, when there are a large number of accused people and every accused person released on bail by the police is not present at the time of filing the charge sheet, the charge sheet is not accepted by the court. Sometimes, courts don't accept the charge sheet of cases beyond an arbitrarily fixed number in one day, or after a particular time in a day. The IOs are reluctant to complain about these issues to a Sessions Judge because this might prove counter-productive for other miscellaneous works at the ground level. Though the *Siddharth v. State of Uttar Pradesh* judgment was delivered more than two years ago, the situation does not seem to have changed much.

Grounds of arrest

In *Pankaj Bansal v. Union of India and Others* (2023), the Supreme Court held that the grounds of arrest must be informed in writing to the accused as a matter of course and without exception, to give true meaning and purpose to the constitutional and statutory mandate of Section 19(1) of the PMLA. Similarly, recently in *Prabir Purkayastha v. State (NCT of Delhi)*, the Court reiterated the ratio of Bansal (supra) case and held that the provision of arrest, as far as informing grounds of arrest is concerned, is *pari passu* (equal footing) under the UAPA. The Court held that the 'reasons of arrest' are purely formal parameters which commonly apply to any person arrested on charge of a crime whereas the 'grounds of arrest' would be invariably personal and required to contain details which necessitated the arrest of the accused. Therefore, unless grounds of arrest are informed in writing, arrest and subsequent remand would become invalid in the eyes of law.

Importantly, Section 50(1) of the CrPC also provides that "every police officer or other person arresting any person without warrant shall forthwith communicate to him full particulars of the offence for which he is arrested or other grounds of arrest". Therefore, even for offences registered under the Indian Penal Code (IPC), an accused is required to be informed about the grounds of arrest, along with important facts of the case. The burden lies on the prosecution to prove that the statutory provisions have been complied with.

The arrest memo prepared by the IO contains a note which says "the arrested person, after being informed of the grounds of arrest and his legal right, was duly taken into custody". The arrest memo which is written separately for each accused contains inter alia all sections of offence(s) applied, date of offence, place, and time and date of arrest, and is signed by the IO. It is also counter signed by the arrestee. However, there is no provision in law to provide a copy of this memo to the accused person at the time of his arrest. This becomes more relevant for those who are not named in the First Information Report.

The Court has said that the grounds of arrest must be provided in writing so that the accused person can seek legal counsel and seek bail on the basis of unambiguously stated facts of the case by the investigating agency. If that be so, the ratio of the Bansal case (supra) must equally apply to Section 50(1) of the CrPC, particularly when such a right is held to flow from Article 22 of the Constitution. It will be apposite to amend the law and provide a copy of the arrest memo with some modification to fulfil the constitutional mandate towards an accused person.

Counting on foes who are friends

The smooth sailing of the DMK will depend on the attitude of the BJP's allies

STATE OF PLAY

B. Kolappan
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The ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) swept the Lok Sabha elections in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, bagging all 40 seats. While this verdict and the fact that the power and influence of its arch rival, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is now limited at the national level, gives it reason to celebrate, the DMK is still unhappy about the nationwide outcome.

In fact, the party was never worried about the results in Tamil Nadu. "Let us forget Tamil Nadu. We are more concerned about the national-level verdict," was the common refrain in the DMK. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, who is also the party president, has been consistently opposing the BJP and its ideology. He knew what would be in store for his government if the BJP was given one more chance to form the government at the Centre.

The DMK was aware that the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), the main opposition party in Tamil Nadu, was a divided house. This increased its prospects substantially. Its allies – Congress, Communist Party of India (Marxist), Communist Party of India, Indian Union Muslim League, Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi, and Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam – also garnered votes and contributed to the sweep of the INDIA bloc. During the election campaign, Mr. Stalin said, "*Naalai Namathey Narpathum Namethy* (Tomorrow is ours and 40 is also ours)".

The outcome also defied predictions that the AIADMK and the BJP could win a few seats in the State. The DMK may not even have minded if the AIADMK and BJP had won a few seats. Its only concern was that the BJP would get re-elected at the national level with a brute majority, as predicted by the exit polls. Fortunately for the party, its worst fears did not come true.

The INDIA bloc increased its tally across the country, but could not secure enough numbers to put an end to the decade-long rule of Mr. Modi. Their only solace is that the BJP fell short of a majority and is now part of a coalition government. The BJP's dependence on its allies may tie its hands, thus preventing it from causing trouble to the DMK government.

Today, Tamil Nadu is the only southern State where the BJP does not have a toehold. This has been the case since Mr. Modi was projected as the party's prime ministerial candidate more than 10 years ago. The DMK won landslide victories in the 2019 and 2024 Lok Sabha elections. In 2014, the AIADMK had secured a massive victory, winning 37 seats in Tamil Nadu, leaving just two seats for the National Democratic Alliance. Even Kerala has elected a member to the Lok Sabha this time.

According to the DMK, the Dravidian ideology has ensured that Tamil Nadu is a fortress against communal forces and has made it impossible for the BJP to permeate the State. The DMK has increased its vote share from the 2021 Assembly polls. But it is aware that lack of unity in the Opposition contributed to its win.

The BJP has come to power in the Centre with the support of the Telugu Desam Party headed by Chandrababu Naidu and the Janata Dal (United) helmed by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Both these leaders are seen as friends of the DMK. Mr. Stalin called on Mr. Naidu in New Delhi and congratulated him on his victory in Andhra Pradesh. There is a perception that the presence of these two parties in the Union government lowers the risk of the DMK government being targeted.

The DMK had already paid a heavy price to what it calls "vendetta politics" of the BJP. Central agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate have been targeting one DMK leader after another in Tamil Nadu in the last few years. The regional party believes that the BJP, which is now at the mercy of its alliance partners, may not go after its political rivals with the same gusto.

The changed circumstances have given the DMK government the much-needed relief and space it needed to concentrate on administration and implementation of welfare schemes.

The smooth sailing of the DMK will depend not on the attitude of the BJP, but on the attitude of the BJP's allies. The DMK hopes that they will prevent the BJP from pursuing its own agenda. Even if they remain indifferent, the DMK believes that the increased strength of the INDIA bloc will help it face the BJP.

The contrasting behaviour of retail investors in the market crash

As opposed to FPIs and mutual funds, retail investors seem to have bought the dip on results day while booking profits the day before

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani

The activity of the stock market as the general elections drew to a close has been a subject of controversy. Indian stocks hit record highs after most exit polls predicted a massive win for the BJP. They crashed on June 4, the day of the results, when it became clear that the BJP was not getting a simple majority.

Is there a case to be made that the volatility of the stock market - with the highs in the run-up to and after the exit polls - hurt retail investors while benefiting "dubious foreign investors," as the Congress claimed after the results?

On May 31, a day before the last day of voting when exit poll results were announced, the total traded value of the stocks doubled. On June 3, the first day of trading following the exit polls, the National Stock Exchange's Nifty-50 closed 3% higher from the reading on the previous day.

On June 4, the BJP's tally was below the majority mark but the National Democratic Alliance managed a tally of 292 seats – well short of what most exit polls predicted. Nifty-50 tumbled by nearly 6% **(Chart 1)**. This was its steepest fall since March 23, 2020, when it plunged by 13% after India went into lockdown to contain the spread of COVID-19. The fall on June 4 wiped out ₹30.9 lakh crore of investor wealth.

Queering the pitch was Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement on May 13. He said, "I suggest that you buy [shares] before June 4. It will shoot up". On May 19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that during the week when the results would be out, the stock market would "touch such highs" that technicians "would be tired of the action" [sic].

Data show that the heightened stock market activity on May 31 was largely driven by heavy trading involving foreign portfolio investors (FPIs). **Chart 2** shows that the total trade value doubled from ₹1.1 lakh crore to ₹2.3 lakh crore on May 31. FPIs were the largest buyers that day, as they bought shares worth ₹95,500 crore - 41.8% of the total. FPIs also sold 41% of the shares that were sold that day.

Chart 3 shows the daily net turnover (shares bought minus shares sold) of different categories of investors such as retail investors, FPIs, and mutual funds from May 2 to June 5. FPIs were largely net sellers on most of the days till May 31, when they turned net buyers (₹1,541 crore). They were also net buyers on June 3 (a day before the results) to the tune of ₹6,617 crore. They were net sellers on June 4 (₹12,511 crore).

In other words, FPIs were net buyers on the days when the stock market went up (May 31 and June 3) and net sellers on the day when the index tanked (June 4). Mutual funds were also net buyers throughout the period barring the days when the markets crashed. For example, on June 4, mutual funds were net sellers to the tune of ₹6,249 crore.

In contrast, retail investors (who include individual domestic investors besides NRIs, high-net-worth individuals, and sole proprietorship firms) were buyers on June 4 with net flows of ₹21,179 crore. Were they buying the dip when the market crashed? Retail investors were net sellers on May 31 and June 3 when the markets soared. Were they booking profits on these days? The retail investors were net sellers of ₹8,588 crore on June 3 - the same day when FPIs and mutual funds were net buyers.

Considering the contrasting behaviour of retail investors and their net turnover as opposed to other categories of investors, it is difficult to claim, as the Congress has done, that retail investors had suffered huge losses on June 4 as opposed to other categories of investors.

Riding the crests and troughs

The data for the charts were sourced from the National Stock Exchange

Chart 1: The chart shows the movement of the NSE Nifty-50 in the days leading up to the election result. On June 4, Nifty-50 tumbled by nearly 6%

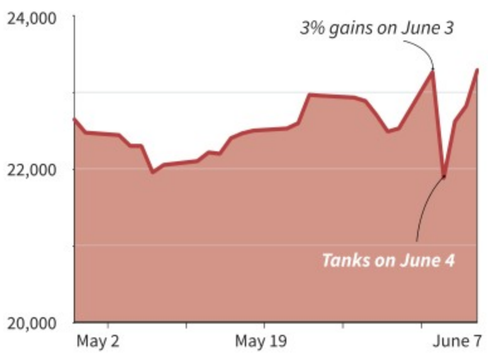


Chart 2: The chart shows the total traded value in ₹ crore. Market activity heightened on May 31 as trade value doubled from ₹1.1 lakh crore to ₹2.3 lakh crore

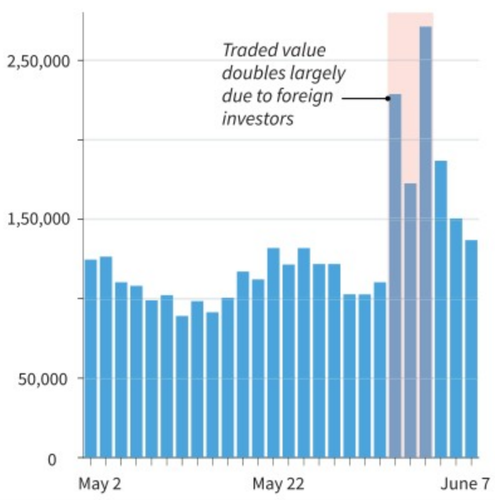
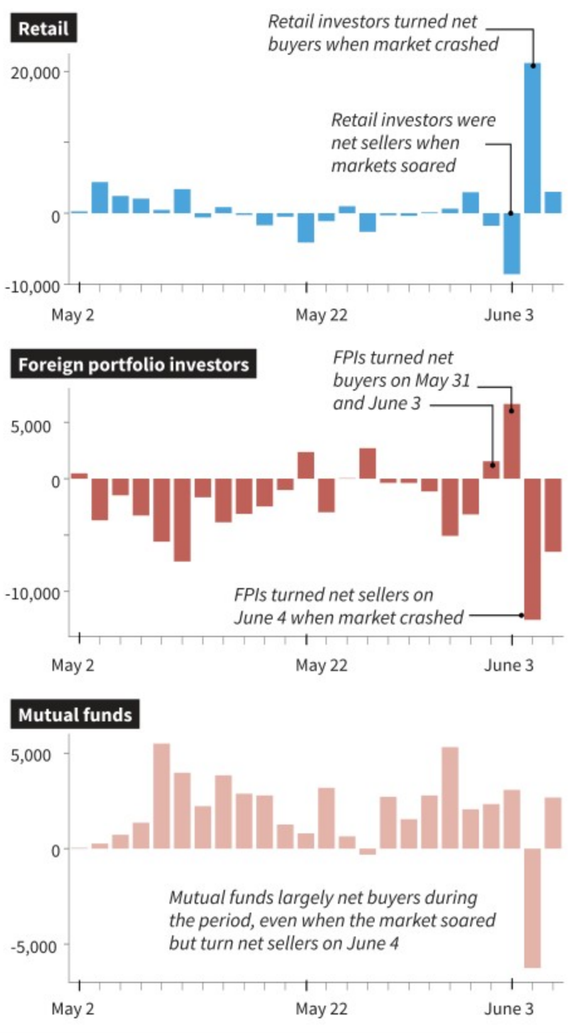


Chart 3: The chart shows the daily net turnover (shares bought minus shares sold) of different categories of investors such as retail investors, foreign portfolio investors and mutual funds



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 12, 1974

Newsprint shortage: Appeal to UNESCO

New Delhi, June 11: The Information and Broadcasting Minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has called upon UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) to promote an international initiative to relieve the acute shortage of newsprint in Asia.

In a letter addressed to Mr. Rene Maheu, Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Gujral cited the fruitless efforts of India and other developing nations to obtain adequate paper supplies. The letter was made available here by the UNESCO Regional Office for Education in Asia.

Mr. Gujral said: "The only hope, therefore, lies in UNESCO promoting an initiative at the international level which would persuade the advanced countries to a fairer distribution of newsprint between the developed and developing countries."

Mr. Gujral said that the world-wide newsprint shortage was due to a spurt in demand in North America and Western Europe at the same time as the principal suppliers, Canada and Scandinavia have increased production only marginally. So supplies that normally flow to Asian countries have been diverted to the U.S. and Western Europe.

Pointing out that while North America consumes about 12 million tons of newsprint and Western Europe about 6 million tons annually, all of Asia requires only 55,60,000 tons per year. He declared: "We are not asking the advanced countries to make a major sacrifice. Just a little self-denial on their part would enable us to meet our needs from world markets."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 12, 1924

The monsoon

Simla, June 11: The Arabian sea monsoon gave heavy rain in Malabar at the beginning of the week, but receded on 9th at the same time extending northwards to Ratnagiri.

The Bay monsoon was fairly active in Burma throughout the week and commenced on the 7th to give widespread rain in Assam with local falls in East and North Bengal. Jalpaiguri received 15 inches between 8th and 10th. In the interior of the peninsula, thunder showers were fairly numerous from 8th.

From Page One

BJP's Mohan Majhi picked as Odisha CM

Mr. Majhi said, "The new government will fulfil all promises made in party manifesto."

The Raj Bhavan, in a press communique, said, "After being satisfied that the BJP commands majority in the Odisha Legislative Assembly, the Governor extended invitation to Mohan Charan Majhi to form the new government."

The CM-designate accepted the invitation and communicated to the Governor that the Council of Ministers would like to be sworn in at 4.55 p.m. on Wednesday

Preparations for the swearing-in of the Chief Minister and his Cabinet colleagues were in full swing. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the ceremony at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar.

Chief Ministers of several BJP-ruled States, Union Ministers and top BJP leaders are expected. The State government has cancelled leaves of all government officials till June 30 in view of possible new programmes that may be launched.

3 asphyxiated after inhaling toxic gas

The Hindu Bureau
PUDUCHERRY

Two women and a 16-year-old girl were asphyxiated, possibly due to the inhalation of toxic gas emanating from the bathrooms of their residences, at Reddiyarpalayam in Puducherry on Tuesday.

The deceased were identified as Senthamarai, 72, her daughter Kamatchi, 55, and their neighbour, Selvarani.

Two others, Bhagyalakshmi and Balakrishna, who also fainted after inhaling the fumes, were admitted to the Indira Gandhi Government Medical College and Research Institute.

The police have cordoned off 4th Cross Road, where the incidents took place, and have asked all the residents to move out.

According to the police, Senthamarai fainted after inhaling the fumes when she was in the bathroom. Kamatchi also fainted in a similar manner when she went to check on her mother.

In a similar incident, Selvarani, who was staying in an adjacent house, also fainted after inhaling toxic gas in the restroom.

Remove 'Modi *ka Parivar*' from X display names: PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday requested his followers on X, formerly Twitter, to remove "Modi *ka Parivar*" (Modi's family) from their display names on social media. "With the message of all of us being one family having been effectively conveyed, I would once again thank the people of India and request that you may now remove 'Modi Ka Parivar' from your social media properties," Mr. Modi said on X.

Some of the BJP's leaders such as Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who lost the election from the Thiruvananthapuram constituency, had removed the line from their social media handles earlier in the day. Party members, including MPs and Ministers belonging to the BJP, had added it to their profiles in March.

"The people of India have given the NDA a majority for the third consecutive time, a record of sorts, and have given us the mandate to keep working for the betterment of our nation," Mr. Modi said in his Tuesday post requesting people to take it down.

"The display name may change, but our bond as one Parivar striving for India's progress remains strong and unbroken."

Mr. Modi has changed the profile and header images on his personal account and official Prime Minister's Office's account.

Jaishankar signals 'business as usual' for foreign policy

Minister indicates little change in how the new government will deal with China and Pakistan; striking a balance between the U.S. and Russia and UN Security Council reforms top of agenda

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar hit the floor running on Tuesday, sending out a message of continuity and "business as usual" for Indian foreign policy in the new government as he assumed charge at South Block for a second term, indicating there would be little change in how the new government would deal with China, Pakistan, UN Security Council reforms, and other pending issues.

On Monday, several hours before his portfolio was even announced, Mr. Jaishankar had called on all seven leaders from the neighbourhood who had been invited to witness Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing-in.

By including Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu, whose government had been at loggerheads with New Delhi until India accepted his demand to withdraw Indian troops from the southern atolls, Mr. Modi has attempted to get ahead of the first of many foreign policy challenges he will face in the neighbourhood during his third term.

While Mr. Jaishankar has served at South Block for much of the past decade, as Foreign Secretary and External Affairs Minister, he will have a new team to work with. None of the three Ministers of State for External Affairs have been retained. The new Ministers of State are Kirtivardhan Singh and Pabitra Margherita. In addition, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra's extended term ends in October, with Deputy National Security Adviser Vikram Misri widely believed to be the next in line for the post.

Strengthening ties: Union Minister S. Jaishankar with President of the Maldives Mohamed Muizzu in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

Former Foreign Secretary and Chairperson of the National Security Advisory Board Shyam Saran said he did not anticipate "any significant departures in policy", with Mr. Jaishankar remaining at the helm of External Affairs. "What I would hope to see is re-engagement with Pakistan and an effort to seek a new equilibrium with China. The neighbourhood has suffered relative neglect with the pursuit of a high global profile. I would hope there is a refocus on the neighbourhood which remains the most critical factor for Indian interests," Mr. Saran told *The Hindu* when asked about the foreign policy agenda ahead.

While re-engagement with Pakistan seems difficult at present, "lower-hanging fruit" such as restoring High Commissioners and restarting some of the cross-border trade for agricultural goods may be possible, especially if Mr. Modi decides to meet his Pakistan counterpart, Shehbaz Sharif, next month on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Astana, Kazakhstan.

All eyes on the meet

All eyes will be on whether Mr. Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping meet there in an effort to resolve the four-year-old stand-off at the Line of Actual Control. In an interview to the *Newsweek* magazine in April, Mr. Modi called India-China ties "important and significant", and said the stand-off must be "urgently addressed" through talks, refraining from any criticism of China's actions.

The next big item on the agenda for the government will be to keep the balance between the U.S. and Russia. In his second term, Mr. Modi had won accolades for navigating India to a "sweet spot" over issues such as the Russia-Ukraine war, where both sides have been keen to court India's favour. In the next few weeks, more of the balancing act will be on display as Mr. Modi visits Italy on June 13-14 to attend the G-7 outreach with Western countries and is due in Astana on July 3-4, where Russian President Vladimir Putin is expected to be present, and will travel to Russia in October for the BRICS summit.

While Mr. Modi is not expected to attend the Swiss Peace Conference on Ukraine this weekend, India's decision to participate at an official level indicates that it is keeping the door open for an evolving role in resolving the conflict. A balancing posture will also give New Delhi space to wait out the next few months until the U.S. elections – as the possibility of a Trump Presidency and a change in Washington would "upend what is still left of the international order", Mr. Saran said.

After friction, Chinese PM greets Modi for third term

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang sent a congratulatory message to Prime Minister Narendra Modi after he was sworn into office for a third time on Sunday. The message from the Chinese leader conveyed that steady relations between Beijing and New Delhi will help bring "positive energy into the region and the world".

India-China ties came into sharp focus soon after Mr. Modi acknowledged a congratulatory message, from Taiwanese President William Lai Ching-te over the weekend which prompted the Chinese Foreign Ministry as well as the Chinese embassy to remind India that it has made "commitments" to the "One China" policy.

"Li said that the sound and steady development of China-India relations is not only conducive to the well-being of the two peoples but also injects stability and positive energy into the region and the world. He said that China is willing to work with India to push bilateral relations in the right direction," *Xinhua* reported.

The election in India was one of the several elections that took place in South and Southeast Asia in the recent past. Chinese President Xi Jinping has congratulated the Prime Ministers of Pakistan and Bangladesh – Shebaz Sharif and Sheikh Hasina – on their electoral victories in the polls held this year.

Nominate sufficient number of IPS officers for deputation, says Centre

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has shot off a letter to 24 States that sufficient number of Indian Police Service (IPS) officers have not been nominated by the State governments for Central deputation, leading to many vacant posts in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).

The letter was sent to all States, except Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim, and the eight Union Territories.

"It is to reiterate that your State/Cadre has not sent/recommended sufficient nominations of IPS officers for deputation for filling up the vacancies at different levels especially from Superintendent of Police to Inspector General in Central Police Organisations (CPOs) and CAPFs. Accordingly, requesting you to forward sufficient nominations of IPS officers especially at the level of SP to IG at the earliest to enable this Ministry to fill up the vacant posts earmarked for IPS officers at Centre," the letter on June 7 stated.

The Home Ministry routinely asks the States to send IPS officers on Central deputation.

As on June 3, there were 129 vacant post of Superintendent of Police (SP), 81 of Deputy Inspector-General (DIGs), and 25 of Inspector-General against the sanctioned strength of 129, 256, and 147, respectively.

The communication follows the letter of December 14, 2023 sent to all States to nominate an adequate number of IPS officers for Central deputation.

The 2023 letter by Additional Secretary R.K. Singh stated that 40% of senior duty posts in each cadre were earmarked as Central Deputation Reserve (CDR) posts. "The CDR of each IPS cadre determines the extent to which the number of officers could be sent on deputation to the Government of India. However, it has been the experience that the offer lists of some States do not contain sufficient number of names vis-a-vis CDR utilisation. Hence, States need to sponsor adequate number of officers so that posts reserved for IPS officers in CAPFs, CPOs are manned by them," the letter said.

The Ministry routinely asks the States to send IPS officers on Central deputation. In February 2022, it amended the IPS tenure policy, doing away with the mandatory requirement of empanelment of IPS officers at the Deputy Inspector-General (DIG) level. It said that "officers with minimum 14 years of experience will be eligible for appointment at the level of DIG by Centre".

Ashwini Vaishnaw takes charge as I&B Minister; promises to uplift poor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday took charge of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

After assuming charge, Mr. Vaishnaw said the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was dedicated to uplifting the poor. The first Cabinet decision for the construction of three crore rural and urban houses a day ago was towards empowering the poor, he added.

"Jai Jagannath! Assumed charge as the Minister of @RailMinIndia, @MIB_India and @GoI_MeitY. Humbled by the responsibility and determined to meet PM Shri @narendramodi Ji's expectations for the vision of 'Viksit Bharat'," he posted on X.

Latest chapter: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw assumes charge as I&B Minister a day after portfolio allocation in New Delhi. PTI

BJP leader L. Murugan also joined as Minister of State for I&B, the portfolio he held in the previous government. He is a Rajya Sabha member from Madhya Pradesh.

According to experts, the allocation of both the Information & Broadcasting, and the Electronics and Information Technology Ministries to Mr. Vaishnaw is expected to result in better coordination between the two departments and further reforms and effective implementation of interlinked policies.

A broadcasting industry expert said that having led the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in the previous government, Mr. Vaishnaw was already aware of various connected issues.

Better position

"Now that he is heading both the Ministries, he will be in a better position to take the necessary decisions," the expert said.

The move is being seen as a step towards the integration of both departments, leading to an alignment, creating conditions for further ease of doing business and better content regulation across various media platforms.

Advisory council says Jiribam's tribals fully separated from Meiteis

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Days after fresh violence in Manipur's Jiribam district displaced hundreds of Meitei, and Kuki-Zo and Hmar people, many even moving to Assam, the Indigenous Tribes Advisory Council, a civil society organisation of tribal communities in Jiribam and Pherzawl districts, on Tuesday said that the Hmar-Kuki-Zomi tribal people of Jiribam had been totally separated from the Meitei community in the district in the wake of the recent violence.

The body thanked Central security forces for evacuating people and requested that they be deployed in adequate numbers to man the "line of separation" that had now reportedly been created due to the attacks on their villages last week – to protect them from suspected advances by groups like Arambai Tenggol, or valley-based insurgent groups (VBIGs), who they believed were being aided by State forces.

While close to 1,000 Kuki-Zo-Hmar and Meitei people are reported to have taken refuge in Assam, hundreds more are being housed at various relief camps within the district.

Agnipath, modernisation key issues as Rajnath set for second tenure

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

As Rajnath Singh takes charge as Defence Minister for a second consecutive term, top issues on the agenda are the Agnipath scheme, pending military modernisation, with focus on indigenisation in addition to situation on the borders, especially with China, where the stand-off in eastern Ladakh still continues.

The Agnipath scheme, which was a major issue in the just-concluded election, will need major changes to address operational contingencies of the armed forces as well as concerns from various allies and political parties.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth.

"Safeguarding India's border will remain our topmost priority and we shall continue protecting India's integrity and sovereignty. Under the visionary leadership of PM Modi we shall rededicate ourselves to strengthen 'Make in India' and take defence manufacturing and exports to greater heights," Mr. Singh said on X on Monday evening after the portfolios were officially announced.

A Member of Parliament from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, he took over as the Defence Minister for the first time on June 1, 2019.

On Tuesday, Sanjay Seth, a second-time MP from Ranchi, Jharkhand, took charge as Minister of State in the Defence Ministry. He was received and briefed about the Ministry by Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane.

Key NDA allies, the Janata Dal (United) and the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), have already raised the issue of Agnipath and called for a detailed discussion on it soon after the election results, and they, as well as other political parties, are expected to take this up once the government is fully in place.

'Anger among voters'

"There is anger among voters with regard to the Agnipath scheme. Our party wants that this scheme is discussed threadbare in the government to remove its flaws," JD(U) national spokesperson K.C. Tyagi said last week.

2 Indian nationals killed in Russia-Ukraine conflict

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Two Indian nationals, who were recruited by the Russian Army, were recently killed in the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday.

India has strongly taken up the matter with Russia and sought early release and return of all Indian nationals who are with the Russian Army, the Ministry said.

APPEAL

Piriyan aged 4 years is advised to undergo Complex Open Heart Surgery (VSD Repair+PDA Legation) at The Madras Medical Mission, Chennai. The total expenditure is **Rs. 4,00,000/-**. His family is very poor and cannot afford this huge cost. Kindly help him to undergo the surgery and lead a healthy life. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank Nungambakkam Branch, A/C. No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments O.No.13. N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/ 7338978027. E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com**. Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

WWS

Poll results a reality check for BJP: RSS mouthpiece

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The results of 2024 Lok Sabha poll have come as a reality check for "overconfident" BJP workers who failed to understand that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call of 400+ was a target for them and not for the Opposition, said a report in *Organiser*, the English mouthpiece of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). The article adds that BJP workers and local leaders did not reach out to RSS which was one of the key reasons for the loss, apart from the BJP's clinical approach in picking its candidates and induction of Congressmen who had promoted the bogey of saffron terror and persecuted Hindus.

The article said targets were achieved by hard work on the field, and not by sharing posters and selfies. Since the BJP workers and leaders were happy in their bubble, enjoying the glow reflected from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aura, they were not listening to the voices on the streets.

BJP to start process to elect next chief; choice may have RSS imprint

Party will launch membership drive shortly, after which polls will be undertaken at the district, State and national levels; Lok Sabha mandate this time and Bhagwat's recent remarks indicate a churn and Sangh Parivar may exert more control

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The formation of a new Ministry and distribution of portfolios among the Ministers may have had the imprint of the BJP's national leadership, but Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat's remarks on Monday – on the "undignified" nature of the Lok Sabha campaign, of humility being the ideal characteristic of a *sevak* or public servant, and need for peace to be restored in Manipur soon – hint that the election of the next BJP president will be within the close embrace of RSS.

The induction of current BJP president J.P. Nadda into the Union Cabinet, allied to the fact that his term at the helm of the party was only till June-end, has already pointed to a change in leadership soon. Mr. Bhagwat's remarks and the nature of the mandate that the BJP got, 32 seats short of a majority, indicate the likelihood of a churn within the Sangh Parivar with regard to the BJP's leadership.

New phase: J.P. Nadda has been inducted into the Cabinet and his term as BJP president comes to an end in June. PTI

At a function to mark the end of a training period for RSS *swayamsevaks*, Mr. Bhagwat said, "A true *sevak* maintains decorum while working... The one who maintains decorum does his work, but remains unattached. There is no arrogance that I did this. Only such a person has the right to be called a *sevak*," he said, in an oblique response to the 2024 Lok Sabha mandate being seen as one that calls for greater humility in the BJP as the party's tally has gone down from the 303 seats it won in 2019.

The remarks that peace must be restored in Manipur was again directed at the Modi government's inability to control ethnic violence in the State. Both Lok Sabha seats in Manipur changed hands and went to the Congress this time.

There could be many reasons for waters being muddied between the BJP and RSS recently, but Mr. Nadda's comment that the BJP "runs itself" now and not as previously when the umblical cord between the BJP and RSS was stronger, was seen as encapsulating the main reason. "The BJP is the political wing of the RSS, the RSS is not the silent partner in the equation," said a senior RSS source.

Many lower-level RSS *swayamsevaks* were disheartened by Mr. Nadda's remarks, saying that while he may not have phrased it in a politically correct manner, his "mindset" and that of the current BJP was clear to see. In Maharashtra especially, this alienation between the BJP and the RSS cadre was noticeable, with not many turning up for campaigning, specifically in constituencies where the Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) contested. "Old resentments against the NCP could not be overcome by this late-hour alliance in Maharashtra," said a source.

Sources in the party said that a membership drive, the first step in process of election of the party president, will be started soon, after which polls at the district, State and national levels will be undertaken. After 50% of the State units complete their polls, a national president can be chosen. This may stretch to September.

The candidate this time, most agree, will not be one wholly chosen by the national leadership, but will have to be a considered choice of the BJP and the RSS. A new BJP president will also mean new office-bearers and possibly a new general secretary (organisation), a key post in the party, who is always "lent" to the BJP from the RSS directly. Unwritten rules say the general secretary (organisation) cannot remain for more than two terms, and incumbent B.L. Santhosh has completed two terms.

Lt. Gen. Upendra Dwivedi to take over as Army chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Tuesday announced the appointment of Lieutenant-General Upendra Dwivedi as the next Chief of the Army Staff. He is now the Vice-Chief and will take over from General Manoj Pande on June 30.

"The government has appointed Lt. General Upendra Dwivedi, presently serving as Vice Chief of the Army Staff, as the next Chief of the Army Staff with effect from the afternoon of June 30, 2024. The present Chief of the Army Staff, General Manoj C. Pande, demits office on June 30, 2024," the Defence Ministry said in a late-evening statement.

General Pande, who was to retire on May 31, had been given a month's extension. The extension had created speculation in the military fraternity of a possible supersession and deviation from the seniority principle in the appointment of Service chiefs.

Lt. Gen. Dwivedi, born on July 1, 1964, was commissioned into the Infantry

Lt. Gen. Upendra Dwivedi

(Jammu & Kashmir Rifles) of the Army on December 15, 1984. As Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, he is an alumnus of the Sainik School, Rewa.

His command roles include leading the 18 Jammu & Kashmir Rifles Regiment and the 26 Sector Assam Rifles Brigade, as well as serving as the Inspector General in Assam Rifles (East) and 9 Corps.

In the rank of Lieutenant-General, he has held important positions, including that of Director-General, Infantry, and General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, from 2022 to 2024, before taking over as Vice-Chief.

Centre will make India a bulwark against terrorism, insurgency, Naxalism: Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Amit Shah assumed charge of the Ministries of Home and Cooperation on Tuesday.

"Modi 3.0 will take its efforts for India's security to the next level and build Bharat as a bulwark against terrorism, insurgency, and Naxalism," Mr. Shah later said in a post on X.

He said that under the stewardship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he had "reassumed charge" of the Ministry and the "MHA will remain committed to the security of the nation and its people, as it always has been".

Mr. Shah visited the National Police Memorial earlier in the day.

"Remembering the martyrs of our police forces who laid down their lives guarding the honour of the nation and whose saga of sacrifice immortalised the fervour of patriotism forever," he said.

Back in the role: Amit Shah takes charge as Union Home Minister at the Home Ministry in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

Mr. Shah held the Home and Cooperation portfolios in the previous Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government at the Centre. The two-time MP from Gujarat has held the Cooperation portfolio since July 2021, when the new Cooperation Ministry was established.

Sources said that more than 70 initiatives had been shortlisted for the cooperative sector in the next five years, and the focus would be on modernising cooperative banks and primary agricultural credit societies.

Cong. retains Rajya Sabha LoP post by a whisker

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Success in the Lok Sabha election has imperilled the Opposition's numbers in the Rajya Sabha, with the Congress narrowly retaining the post of Leader of the Opposition (LoP) after two of its members, K.C. Venugopal and Deepender Hooda, have been elected to the Lower House. The Congress now has 26 members against the minimum of 25 a party requires to hold the post of Leader of the Opposition. Currently, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge occupies the post.

A total of 10 vacancies, two each from Assam, Bihar and Maharashtra and one each from Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Tripura, have arisen following the victory of Rajya Sabha members in the Lok Sabha election. Seven of these MPs are from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), two from the Congress and one from the Rashtriya Janata Dal.

While the BJP will retain all the seven positions, it will gain three additional seats from the Congress and the RJD.

The BJP with 90 members is the single largest party, followed by the Congress with 26, Trinamool Congress (13) and YSR Congress Party (11).

Other than Mr. Venugopal and Mr. Hooda, the members who won the Lok Sabha election include Piyush Goyal, Biplab Kumar Deb, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Vivek Thakur, Sarbananda Sonowal, Kamakhya Prasad Tasa and Udayanraje Bhonsale of the BJP. With Mr. Goyal's exit, the BJP will have to elect a new Leader of the House.

RJD leader Misa Bharati has also ceased to be a member of the Upper House after winning the Pataliputra seat in Bihar.

Many dynasts in Modi Cabinet: Rahul Gandhi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Targeting the Narendra Modi government over dynastic politics, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday pointed out that several Cabinet Ministers in the NDA government were from political families.

"Those who call the tradition of struggle, service and sacrifice of generations as nepotism are distributing the will of power to their *sarkari parivar* [government family]. This difference between the words and actions is called Narendra Modi," he said.

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Bids are invited for Procurement of Services of "Strategic Business Promoter to Equip, Operate, Manage & Transfer Business Services at ICD, Bhilwara from the eligible and experienced bidders" up to 01.00 PM Dated 27.06.2024. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan. gov.in)** of the state. The approximate value of the procurement is INR 3.5 Crores. **NIB Code : RSI2425A0003, UBN No. : RSI2425SLOB00003**

Raj.Samwad/C/24/432 Managing Director

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NIB No. 1/2024-25

Bids for 'SELECTION OF SALE PROMOTER FOR SALE OF RAJASTHANI HANDMADE & HANDICRAFT PRODUCTS AT RAJSTHALI JAIPUR ON PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP BASIS' are invited from interested bidders up to 27.6.2024 till 1 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, htpp://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in)** of the state and RAJSICO website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs 2 Crore. **NIB Code RSI2425A0002**

Raj.Samwad/C/24/431 Managing Director

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संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

सं.शार:सीएमजी सिविल: अनुरक्षण: ई–जन निविदा / No: CMGCIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-02/24-25 तिथि/ Date. 10.06.2024

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से **"एसएमपीसी यूनिट-II एसडीएससी शार में संरचनात्मक मरम्मत कार्य"** (टी/सी-24-007, अनुमानित लागत ₹14.63 लाख), **"फेज-I एवं फेज-II क्षेत्र एसडीएससी शार में रंगाई–पुताई कार्य"** (टी/सी-24-008, अनुमानित लागत ₹124.94 लाख), **"कीपाकम, एसडीएससी शार में विविध सिविल कार्य"** (टी/सी-24-009, अनुमानित लागत ₹17.16 लाख), **"प्रथम प्रमोचन मंच क्षेत्र, एसडीएससी शार में छत रोधन, फाल्स सीलिंग का प्रतिस्थापन एवं विविध सिविल कार्य"** (टी/सी-24-010, अनुमानित लागत ₹18.65 लाख), **"द्वितीय प्रमोचन मंच क्षेत्र, एसडीएससी शार में पुलिया एवं सुविधाओं का विशेष मरम्मत कार्य"** (टी/सी-24-011, अनुमानित लागत ₹69.27 लाख) हेतु मद दर ई–निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेजों को **26.06.2024** को **14:30** बजे तक डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। इच्छुक निविदाकार विस्तृत सूचना के लिए हमारी वेबसाइट **www.isro.gov.in** या **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** देखें।

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for **"Structural repairs works at SMPC Unit-II, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-24-007, Est. cost ₹14.63 Lakhs); **"Painting works at PHC-I & II areas, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-24-008, Est. cost ₹124.94 Lakhs); **"Misc civil works at Keepakkam, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-24-009, Est. cost ₹17.16 Lakhs); **"Replace deck insulation, false ceiling & misc civil works at FLP areas, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-24-010, Est. cost ₹18.65 Lakhs); **"Special repair works to culvert & facilities at SLP area, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-24-011, Est. cost ₹69.27 Lakhs). Tender documents can be downloaded up to **26.06.2024**, **14:30** hrs. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.

हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR

भारतीय समुद्री विश्वविद्यालय
INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY
(A Central University under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India)
Established by an Act of the Parliament in 2008

Advt. No. IMU-HQ/R/T/2024/01 **Date: 12.06.2024**

Recruitment of Teaching Faculty

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for the following teaching positions (including backlog) to be filled on Direct Recruitment basis. Interested candidates may submit their applications online through the link available at ***www.imu.edu.in***.

Sl. No.	Post Code	Post	Discipline	No. of posts	Category	Academic Pay Level (7th CPC pay matrix)
1.	T-01	Professor	Marine Engineering	5	UR-2; EWS-1 OBC [NCL]-1; SC-1	Level-14 [144200- 218200]
2.	T-02	Professor	Economics/ Finance & Accounting	1	OBC-NCL-1	
3.	T-03	Professor	Logistics & Supply Chain Management/ Port & Shipping Management	1	UR-1	
4.	T-04	Professor	Mechanical Engineering	1	UR-1	
5.	T-05	Associate Professor	Ocean Engineering	1	UR-1	Level-13A [131400-217100]
6.	T-06	Associate Professor	Electrical Engineering	2	OBC [NCL]-1; ST-1	
7.	T-07	Associate Professor	Mechanical Engineering	4	OBC [NCL]-2; SC-1; ST-1	
			Total	**15***		

*Out of 15 posts, 1 post is for PwD under Horizontal reservation.

The vacancies stated above are tentative and are subject to change. IMU reserves the right not to fill up any of the posts advertised (or) cancel the recruitment at any stage. The place of posting may be in any one of six campuses of IMU. (Chennai, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Visakhapatnam)

Note: The candidates who were called for interview vide advertisement IMU-HQ/R/T/2023/02 dated 20.08.2023 need not apply again for the Post Codes - T-01, T-02 & T-03. Their earlier applications will be considered.

Remuneration:
Emoluments for the post of Professor : ₹38.27 Lakhs per year (Approx.)
Emoluments for the post of Associate Professor : ₹35 Lakhs per year (Approx.)

Benefits:
Cumulative Professional Development Allowance: : ₹3 Lakhs in a block of 3 years.

For further details regarding the eligibility criteria: i.e., Age, Educational Qualifications, Experience, etc., please visit ***www.imu.edu.in***

Women candidates are encouraged to apply

Important dates:
Opening date for the submission of online application : 12.06.2024
Closing date for the submission of online application : 03.07.2024
Last date for receiving hard copies of the application : 09.07.2024

Sd/-
Registrar

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600),
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/ED/05/2024 Date : 11.06.2024

E- TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers/ loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the Procurement of Drugs for Mittayi Project of KSSM for the year 2024-25.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	Category	No. of items
1.	KMSCL/ED/MITTAYI/RC/2024/010 dtd. 11.06.2024	Insulin Cartridge, Pen, Needle & Lancet	09

The last date and time of online uploading of tender will be 27.06.2024, 5.00 pm. The date and time of opening of Technical bid will be 01.07.2024 11.00 am. Tender shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.**

(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

INBRIEF

Rajasthan govt. announces aid for terror attack victims

The bodies of four victims of the June 9 terror attack on a bus in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district arrived by train in Jaipur on Tuesday and were taken to their home towns for cremation. The Rajasthan government announced financial assistance of ₹50 lakh to each of the two families of the victims following the protests staged by the local people outside two police stations. Cloth merchant Rajendra Saini, 42, his wife Mamta, 40, their relative Pooja Saini, 30, and her two-year-old son, Lavyansh, were among the nine persons killed in the attack by terrorists on a bus carrying pilgrims. Rajya Sabha member Rajendra Gehlot said he would bear the expenses for the education of Rajendra Saini's children.

Jharkhand Congress Minister resigns from govt., party post

Jharkhand leader Alamgir Alam, who has been arrested on charges of money laundering in an alleged tender scam, resigned as a Cabinet Minister from the Champai Soren government. Mr. Alam on Monday also resigned from the post of Congress Legislature Party (CLP) in the Assembly. His resignation came after three days when Mr. Soren took all the ministerial posts from him and made him Minister without portfolio. Mr. Alam was handling four departments which included Rural Development, Parliamentary Affairs and Rural Works and Panchayati Raj. On May 15, the Enforcement directorate (ED) had arrested Mr. Alam.

Bhupender Yadav back as Environment Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Signalling continuity, Bhupender Yadav took charge of the Environment Ministry for the second time on Tuesday. Kirtivardhan Singh also assumed charge as Minister of State.

Speaking to presspersons, Mr. Yadav said several steps had been taken by the Ministry since 2014 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure that environmental needs and industrial development went together. He said the focus would remain on initiatives such as Mission LiFE-Lifestyle for Environment, championed by Mr. Modi to promote and incentivise "mindful consumption" and promote "environmental-friendly self-sustainable behaviour".

One of the first things Mr. Modi did on June 5, World Environment Day, and the day after the NDA won a third consecutive mandate, was to launch a campaign – '*Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam* (Plant a tree as a tribute to your mother)' – to encourage tree planting. "Everyone should plant a tree to combat desertification and challenges to biological diversity. We must do this for Mother Earth," Mr. Yadav said.

SC allows counselling, seeks NTA response on NEET 'paper leak'

Court says allegations affect sanctity of exams; it will hear case on July 8; students have alleged widespread irregularities in the conduct of the test

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Vacation Bench of the Supreme Court on Tuesday sought a response from the National Testing Agency (NTA) in a petition alleging leak of the question paper of the May 5 National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to the undergraduate medical course.

The court, however, orally declined to stay the counselling process. The Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Ahsanuddin Amanullah scheduled the hearing of the case for July 8, after the reopening of the court after the summer vacation.

Justice Amanullah said the court needed answers from the NTA as the allegations directly impact the "sanctity" of the NEET. Mathews J. Nedumpara, counsel for 10 student-petitioners, sought a stay of the counselling process.

Counselling to continue

"Let the counselling start, we are not stopping the counselling," Justice Nath responded.

Mr. Nedumpara, who represented Shivangi Mishra and nine other students, had sought an investigation into the question paper leak as candidates from particular centres had secured full marks. "Twenty-four lakh students participated in the NEET and the large-scale fraud which the NEET has proven to be is a matter concerning their very career. It is also a matter of great public interest," he wrote to the Supreme Court Registry last week for an early listing of the case.

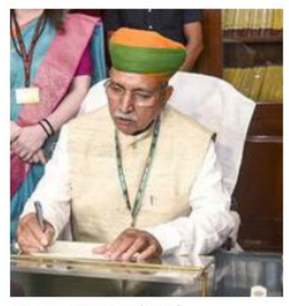
Students protesting against alleged irregularities in the NEET exam in Bengaluru on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Students and the Opposition had alleged widespread irregularities in the conduct of the exam.

"The principal release sought for is the cancellation of the entire examination and to conduct a fresh one. The interim relief sought is to stay the declaration of the results. However, before the case could be listed, the exam results were declared... In 2023, the number of students who scored 650 and above out of 720 was a mere 7,000. This year, it was 35,000. The number of students who scored 720/720 also shot up by several times," he said.

Uniform Civil Code is part of Union govt.'s agenda: Meghwal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI


Arjun Ram Meghwal.

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Tuesday said the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) was part of the Narendra Modi government's agenda.

Assuming charge at the Law Ministry, which he held in the earlier government as well, Mr. Meghwal rejected the allegation that there was conflict between the executive and the judiciary, and expressed hope that a solution would be found on the issue of the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP).

The MoP refers to the procedure on the appointment, elevation and transfer of High Court and Supreme Court judges, which is yet to be finalised because of differences between the executive and the judiciary.

"I believe that we will certainly find a solution to it," Mr. Meghwal told presspersons after taking charge of the Ministry of Law and Justice.

Responding to a question on the implementation of the UCC, he said that it was part of the government's agenda.

On the issue of "One Nation, One Election", Mr. Meghwal said the committee under former President Ram Nath Kovind had submitted its report, and the Law Commission was also working on the subject.

Mr. Meghwal also signed the national litigation policy document soon after taking charge. The policy document, part of the 100-day agenda of the Narendra Modi 3.0 government, will be placed before the Union Cabinet for approval in the coming days.

The Law Minister said a key priority of his Ministry would be faster justice in matters pending in the Supreme Court, High Courts, lower courts, tribunals, and consumer courts.

The national litigation policy has been drafted and redrafted over several years by successive governments, and aims to lay down principles for responsible litigation. A national litigation policy has been a part of the BJP's manifesto since 2014.

Mohan Majhi, BJP's vocal tribal leader with long experience in Odisha House

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Mohan Charan Majhi, a four-time MLA with roots in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), has been chosen the new Chief Minister of Odisha, marking the culmination of the Bharatiya Janata Party's four-decade-long pursuit of power in the State.

The 52-year-old will be sworn in as the BJP's first Chief Minister in Odisha on Wednesday. A member of the Santali tribe, he hails from Raikala village in the mineral-rich Keonjhar district.

As a prominent tribal face of the BJP, he was first elected to the Assembly in 2000 and again in 2004. However, he lost his seat in the 2009 and 2014 elections after the BJP-BJD alliance broke down.

After making a modest beginning as the sarpanch

Mohan Charan Majhi

of the Raikala panchayat, Mr. Majhi gradually ascended the political ladder. In addition to his political career, he briefly worked as a teacher at Saraswati Sishu Mandir, a school affiliated with the Sangh Parivar.

Mr. Majhi, a law graduate with an MA, returned to the Assembly in 2019. His performance stood out during the five-year term from 2019 when the voice of the 23 BJP MLAs was usually overshadowed by the 112 MLAs of the BJD in the Assembly.

Mr. Majhi had introduced seven private member's Bills, including the Odisha Whistle Blowers' Protection Bill, 2020.

As the Chief Whip of the BJP in 16th Odisha Legislative Assembly, Mr. Majhi participated in probably the highest number of discussions.

Mr. Majhi, who was national secretary of the BJP ST Morcha, always stood up for tribal cause.

His rich experience as the Government Deputy Chief Whip in the 13th Assembly, the Chief Whip of the BJP Legislature Party since 2019 and the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee from 2022 would help him manage government affairs.

Flagged corruption

A native of Keonjhar, which boasts India's largest iron ore deposits in one district, Mr. Majhi has been particularly vocal about the irregularities in the mining sector.

During the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) rule, he was at the forefront in flagging corruption in the utilisation of vast funds under the District Mineral Foundation.

According to his confidants, Mr. Majhi hardly misses social functions in every village coming under his Assembly constituency. He personally intervenes to get patients admitted to bigger hospitals. It was his empathy for people that helped him win four terms as MLA in the past 24 years.

Mr. Majhi took time out to console family members of his personal assistant, who was killed in a road accident on Tuesday. Once the post-mortem got over, he returned to party MLAs' meeting.

Will work faster to double income of farmers, says Agriculture Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Senior BJP leader Shivraj Singh Chouhan took charge as the Union Agriculture and Rural Development Minister on Tuesday. He had held an informal meeting with the top bureaucrats of the two Ministries on Monday evening.

Mr. Chouhan has his work cut out with the farmers' organisations threatening to launch fresh protests demanding legal guarantee for minimum support price for all crops. A group of farmers, who were stopped from entering Delhi, has been camping at Khanauri near the Punjab-Haryana boundary for several weeks demanding the same. The last five years of the Narendra Modi government were marked by relentless protest, which led to the BJP's oldest ally, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), snapping ties with the party.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan taking charge as Union Agriculture and Rural Development Minister on Tuesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

PM Kisan Nidhi

Speaking to presspersons, the former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh underlined that Prime Minister Narendra Modi began his day in office by authorising the release of the 17th instalment of PM Kisan Nidhi, benefiting 9.3 crore farmers and distribute around ₹20,000 crore.

"The Prime Minister has resolved to double the income of farmers; work is going on continuously for that. We will all work together even faster on that and take every possible step for the welfare of farmers," the Union Minister said.

Later in the day, he took charge of the Rural Development Ministry. Speaking to presspersons at the Ministry, he said that in the past 10 years, the BJP government had taken many "revolutionary steps" in the rural sector. In the MGNREGS, he said more emphasis would be laid on "asset creation".

The 65-year-old leader took oath as part of the Prime Minister's Council of Ministers on Sunday, marking a significant milestone in his over three-decade-long political career.

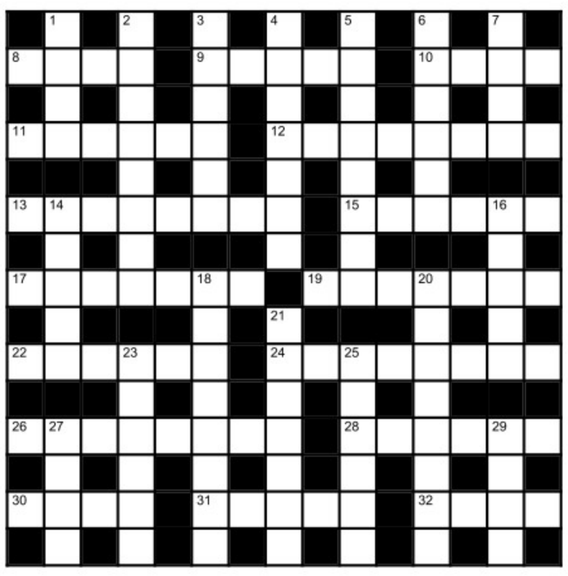
The BJP leader won the Vidisha Lok Sabha seat for an impressive sixth time, securing a record margin of 8.21 lakh votes. Born on March 5, 1959, in Jait village, Sehore district, Mr. Chouhan's political journey began with the RSS when he was 13 years old. He was first elected to the Assembly from the Budhni constituency in 1990 and he later became the MP for Vidisha in 1991.

TH CROSSWORD + 14199

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Los Angeles maiden takes boy's young animal (4)
9 Short animal in post office (5)
10 Herb's money plant (4)
11 Sailor's bit of luck since getting vehicle (6)
12 Corgi removed from conflagration injured, not to the extent of leading to death (3-5)
13 Bachelor helps musicians (8)
15 Casts bowls (6)
17 Despatched in advance? Give! (7)
19 Cost attached to right warhorse (7)
22 Central Asian plaque (6)
24 Tries, for starters, artificial trout lures (8)
26 Respect veteran running at end of parade (8)
28 Sound arrangement following initial requirement for units of ammunition (6)
30 Legal document with respect to having custody of setter (4)
31 The Spanish fish portion is small (5)
32 Drinks consumed by salesman (4)

Down

1 Siesta at a city in California (4)
2 A bachelor, Charlie, operates counting machines (8)
3 In ship, hear predatory marine creatures (6)
4 "Bridge is hot" in European language (7)
5 Best quality pot returned... Not Chinese... (3,5)
6 Damage one policeman's bearing (6)
7 South American empire's material goes missing during development of Latin America (4)
14 Large vessel from China or Taiwan (5)
16 Snatch remaining whiskey first (5)
18 Told, "Ran back and assessed" (8)
20 Butter large part of bun and brown fruit (8)
21 What one might do on a runway strip? (4,3)
23 In Rome, double cross and score (6)
25 Flying hornet's potty? (6)
27 Dear Earl has a couple of these body parts (4)
29 Seedy establishment stocks colouring substances (4)

SUDOKU

		8		3				
	3	2			4	1		
6			1		5	4		
	7				2			
		6	8		7	5		
			4				8	
		5	3		8			1
		4	9			8	3	
				5		2		

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	L		S		V		F		M		P		F	
C	A	S	H		A	P	O	L	O	G	I	S	E	D
	R		I		C		W		U		G		T	
U	G	A	N	D	A		L	A	S	V	E	G	A	S
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I	S	O	L	A	T	E	D		P	A	N	A	M	A
	C		E				O		A				A	
P	A	N	S		B	A	R	E	D		I	N	R	I
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S	E	N	T	R	Y		C	H	E	E	T	A	H	S
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D	E	L	A	W	A	R	E		R	U	M	B	A	S
	P		U		R		M		I		A		N	
T	E	N	M	I	L	L	I	O	N		T	I	D	Y
	E		A		Y		R		G		E		S	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	5	3	2	7	4	8	6	1
2	6	4	1	8	9	7	3	5
7	1	8	3	6	5	9	2	4
1	9	2	6	4	7	5	8	3
3	4	5	8	9	2	6	1	7
8	7	6	5	3	1	2	4	9
5	8	1	7	2	3	4	9	6
6	3	9	4	5	8	1	7	2
4	2	7	9	1	6	3	5	8

FAITH

Sublime devotion of Desika

Paduka Sahasram, a unique, lyrical, spiritual epic is deep and rich in meaning with complex implications for the discerning, said Thirukkudanthai Dr. Venkatesh in a discourse.

Composed by Swami Vedantha Desika and comprising 1,008 slokas, each sloka refers to both the Paduka and Nammazhwar, the Vaishnavaite guru held to be the embodiment of the Paduka. Desika initially felt that the task was beyond him. "Even using all the clouds as writing material and all the water from the oceans as ink, it is beyond one's scope to capture the greatness of Padukas and Nammazhwar. Someone should dictate the content and none other than the God can do it." With His blessings, Desika composed the work.

Interestingly, it takes six to seven hours to recite it once, but he wrote it in three hours, in appreciation of which, God Himself bestowed upon him the title, *Kavitarkika Simham*, meaning a lion in both composition and logical argument.

In the 108th verse, Swami Desika says, "Paduka devi you are more important than Rama himself." When Bharata asked Rama to return to Ayodhya, Rama said, "I cannot come, you take my Paduka instead as an assurance that I will return in 14 years."

INBRIEF

TVS Supply Chain signs 5-year contract with Daimler Truck

TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd. (TVS SCS) signed a five-year strategic contract with Daimler Truck South East Asia Pte. Ltd. for integrated supply chain solutions services in Singapore. As per the agreement, TVS SCS will establish a robust logistics solution for distributing spare parts and related items, streamline supply-chain operations, manage 8,000 stock keeping units and 65,000 order lines annually and ensure smooth transportation across multiple modes.

Battery Smart raises $65 mn from LeapFrog Investments

Battery Smart, a battery-swapping network for electric two- and three-wheelers, said it raised $65 million in a Series B funding round led by LeapFrog Investments. The equity round consisted of a mix of primary and secondary investments and saw participation from new and existing investors. The comapny said it would use the capital to fuel its next phase of expansion by bringing its battery-as-a-service solution to more cities across India.

GARDP to fund up to $20 mn for Bugworks' MDR molecule

Swiss not-for-profit organisation Global Antibiotic Research & Development Partnership (GARDP) will provide up to $20 million for an innovative compound with broad-spectrum antibiotic activity that biopharma firm Bugworks Research Inc. is developing against multidrug-resistant bacteria that cause life-threatening infections. The firm, in return, has granted manufacturing and commercialisation rights for BWC0977, the compound, in 146 countries, GARDP said.

BPCL eyeing a new refinery, says Puri

Finding and producing more crude oil and gas to cut India's import reliance, green hydrogen, natural gas and refining and petrochemicals will be the government's most important priorities, says the Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

State-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) is looking to build a new oil refinery to meet the rising demand for fuels like petrol and diesel, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said Tuesday as he took charge of the ministry for the second time.

He said finding and producing more oil and gas to cut India's import reliance, green hydrogen, natural gas and refining and petrochemicals would be the government's top priorities.

New innings: Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri being greeted by MoS Suresh Gopi after taking charge on Tuesday. PTI

Mr. Puri said attracting investors to oil and gas exploration and production in the ongoing bid rounds as well as in unique tenders like the one floated by ONGC seeking a foreign partner for raising output at one of India's old fields, Mumbai High, would be high on the agenda.

Also, the push towards producing and increasing usage of green hydrogen, an alternative to fossil fuels that has zero emissions, would continue, he said, adding use of biofuels would also be encouraged.

Securing supplies

On securing supplies of crude oil, he said India had diversified its sources of supplies including from Russia. From buying less than a percentage of its total imports, India emerged as the biggest buyer of Russian sea-borne oil, snapping up barrels sold at a discount as some Western nations halted purchases after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

"We are a long-standing partner of the Russian federation. We have had discussions with the Russians on long-term deals," he said. "I am confident that both our private and public sector players will sign long-term deals with countries where they see benefit in doing so."

He said BPCL is looking to build its fourth oil refinery in the country. "The details are being worked out," he added.

BPCL operates refineries at Mumbai, Kochi and Bina. It is aiming to raise refining capacity from 39 million tonnes per annum to 45 million tonnes.

SBI to focus on small business lending

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

State Bank of India (SBI) on Tuesday said MSME advances have been identified as the focal point for growth and profitability over the next five years.

"MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) advances have been identified as the focal point for the bank's growth and profitability over the next five years," SBI said.

The bank said it would now offer SMEs a digital loan with an end-to-end sanction turnaround time of up to 45 minutes.

"The proposition eliminates the need for traditional credit underwriting and lengthy appraisal processes, ushering in a new era of simplicity, speed, and accessibility in MSME lending," the lender said.

For loans up to ₹50 lakh, the lender waived the need for financial statements, relying instead on transaction history and GST returns for appraisal.

SBI's board gives nod for raising up to $3 bn in debt

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Executive Committee of the Central Board of State Bank India (SBI), at its meeting held on Tuesday, approved long-term fund raising in single/multiple tranches of up to $3 billion by the bank in the current financial year.

The fund raising will be through a public offer and/or private placement of senior unsecured notes in U.S. dollar or any other major foreign currency during FY2024-25, the bank said in a filing with stock exchanges.

IRDAI eases norms for general insurance

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

General insurers cannot reject claims for want of documents, need to comply with strict timelines while settling claims and offer to motor insurance customers the additional 'Pay as you drive/Pay as you go' option as the first choice, regulator IRDAI said.

Counting these among the customer-centric steps of a comprehensive master circular on general insurance it has issued by repealing as many as 13 circulars, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India said its emphasis is on reforms, facilitating seamless client experience through simplification of the process while ensuring ease of operations for the insurers.

The circular will ensure move towards easy-to-understand products with a customer information sheet providing details, including on coverage and claim-settlement process.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	76,457	-0.04
US Dollar	83.59	-0.10
Gold	71,950	0.20
Brent oil	82.14	1.08

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3221.25	1.15
Adani Ports	1403.45	19.40
Apollo Hosp	6107.95	51.25
Asian Paints	2902.45	-35.10
Axis Bank	1194.60	-5.40
Bajaj Auto	9812.70	79.65
Bajaj Finserv	1568.25	2.45
Bajaj Finance	7138.10	49.25
Bharti Airtel	1427.25	1.20
BPCL	607.20	4.60
Britannia Ind	5517.75	29.35
Cipla	1530.25	-4.00
Coal India	476.35	-1.35
Divis Lab	4475.45	-60.80
Dr Reddys Lab	6039.25	-66.90
Eicher Motors	4758.65	-24.10
Grasim Ind	2456.90	10.10
HCL Tech	1428.80	10.05
HDFC Bank	1564.80	3.50
HDFC Life	571.70	2.50
Hero MotoCorp	5786.60	64.40
Hindalco	672.95	-3.45
Hind Unilever	2556.35	-9.00
ICICI Bank	1118.20	-5.60
IndusInd Bank	1481.05	-4.80
Infosys	1495.75	-4.00
ITC	433.00	-3.90
JSW Steel	910.10	-5.80
Kotak Bank	1720.00	-25.65
L&T	3598.70	54.95
LTIMindtree Ltd.	4903.55	0.10
M&M	2835.55	28.00
Maruti Suzuki	12863.65	146.10
NestleIndia	2541.95	-6.25
NTPC	367.40	2.50
ONGC	273.55	14.40
PowerGrid Corp	316.55	0.75
Reliance Ind	2913.35	-29.45
SBI Life	1428.05	-4.25
State Bank	835.55	3.75
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2533.00	13.90
Sun Pharma	1499.75	-13.35
TataConsumerProduct	1135.60	2.55
Tata Motors	987.10	11.95
Tata Steel	181.33	1.04
TCS	3852.10	-6.60
Tech Mahindra	1349.45	9.10
Titan	3410.70	-11.50
UltraTech Cement	10933.55	107.30
Wipro	476.05	0.80

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 11

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.37	83.69
Euro	89.53	89.88
British Pound	106.23	106.65
Japanese Yen (100)	53.05	53.26
Chinese Yuan	11.49	11.54
Swiss Franc	92.96	93.33
Singapore Dollar	61.61	61.86
Canadian Dollar	60.53	60.76
Malaysian Ringitt	17.66	17.74
Australian Dollar	55.00	55.22

Source:Indian Bank

DICV names Muthu as new Chief of Operations

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV) has named C. Muthu Maruthachalam as President and Chief of Operations and Logistics effective August 15, 2024.

He replaces former COO Anshum Jain, who moved out in April.

In his new role, Mr. Muthu Maruthachalam will be a member of DICV's core leadership team. He will oversee Operations and Logistics, Manufacturing Engineering and Truck Operating System departments in DICV. He will be responsible for ensuring seamless operational workflows and enhancing manufacturing processes, DICV said in a statement.

'Competition to hit paint-sector profit'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

With the production capacity of India's organised paint industry expected to almost double to 7.8 billion litre per annum (blpa) between FY24 and FY27 on planned investments of ₹19,000 crore, profitability would be impacted on account of intense competition and higher marketing spend, Crisil Ratings said.

A large part of the capacity, or about 2.4 blpa, will be operational this fiscal with the new player (Aditya Birla Group) alone adding 1.3 blpa primarily in the decorative segment, which accounts for 75-80% of the total production.

"Manufacturers could price products aggressively to draw customers and utilise the expanded capacities," Crisil added.

Operating profitability would moderate to 15-17% on higher marketing spends and pressure on realisations.

"Rising disposable income, increasing client preference for quality products, rising home sales and expected recovery in rural demand will be supportive. However, pressure on realisations will partially offset the benefit of higher volume," said Poonam Upadhyay, Director.

Carborundum Universal plans two new facilities in India

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Sridharan Rangarajan

Murugappa group firm Carborundum Universal Ltd. (CUMI) plans to set up two new facilities in India to make thin wheels and high purity silicon carbide with an estimated expense of ₹350 crore in FY25, said a top company executive.

In FY24, CUMI acquired the assets, brand and technology of abrasive product manufacturer Dronco of Germany, which went bankrupt, similar to another German firm Rhodius acquired by CUMI in February 2022.

"We moved assets into India last month. We are setting up this facility in India using Rhodius technology and it would take two years. That is how the synergies will play out," said MD Sridharan Rangarajan on an analysts call.

Mr. Rangarajan said the new plant will have a capacity to produce 50 million thin wheels and generate revenue worth ₹250-300 crore from FY27.

CUMI will also set up a six-ton-per-month high-purity silicon carbide facility in Kerala. This will take about 18 months. Besides, this the firm will set up IT infrastructure and safety-related capex.

The carbide facility will serve two markets - the semiconductor industry where high-purity silicon carbide will be used and in the technical ceramics field. Capacity will be scaled up upon utilisation.

The MD said CUMI continues to be debt free and that the newly acquired firms Rhodius and Awuko are on a growth path.

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THE HINDU GROUP
THE HINDU
POWERPLAY
T20 TRIVIA QUIZ
1. Which two countries are set to co-host the 2026 T20 World Cup?
2. How many countries are making their debut in the current edition of the T20 World Cup?
3. Which bowler has taken the most wickets in T20 World Cup history?
Scan the code, to participate in the quiz and win exciting gift vouchers
Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Shakib al Hasan
2. Shahid Afridi
3. West Indies & South Africa

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CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No. KMSCL/EP/10400/2024 Dated : 11.06.2024

e-TENDER NOTICE (Running Contract)

Online bids are invited for the supply and installation of the following equipment for various Government healthcare institutions across Kerala

Sl. No	Tender No.	Description	Online Pre-Bid Meeting	Last date of Online submission
1.	T540/2024	Hormone Analyzer-POCT, Biomedical Liquid Nitrogen Storage Container with Accessories, Combined Refrigerator and Freezer, Double Stage CO2 Regulator, Electronic Pipette Controller, 20KVA UPS, Thermal Cycler (Dual Block), DNA Quantification Apparatus. Pass Box (Dynamic), Pass Box (Static)	19.06.2024 11.00 a.m.	04.07.2024 5.00 p.m.
2.	T541/2024	Ice Lined Refrigerator, Table top incubator (Compact microbiological Incubator), Fume Hood, Trinocular Microscope with Camera, Trevis for large animal, Stomach Lavage Equipment, Doppler with Blood Pressure Monitor, Fully Automated Immuno Histochemistry Stainer.	20.06.2024 11.00a.m.	04.07.2024 5.00 p.m.
3.	T542/2024	CO2 incubator, CO2 Orbital Shaker, Eye piece camera for inverted microscope, Micro plate shaker, Upright Trinocular Fluorescent Microscope, EEG ERP system, Washer Extractor(100kg), Stapedectomy Set, Modular operation theatres Type B	22.06.2024 11.00a.m.	04.07.2024 5.00 p.m.
4.	T543/2024	Dermascope, Dermatology Examination Couch, Lab air motor (Dental), Surgeon mobile swivel stool, Cytotoxic Cabinet,Ophthalmology Instrument set, Articulator Ordinary (Dental), Diathermy with Bipolar cutting & coagulation System, Fully automated Biochemistry Analyzer Model A, Spectacles for Old Person, Spectacles for School Children.	N.A.	01.07.2024 5.00 p.m.
5.	T544(R)/ 2024	Keratoplasty Set, Collagen Cross Linking Machine, Cryo Machine with Probe (Ophthalmology), Posterior Segment Surgical Microscope, Posterior Segment Vitrectomy System - Table Top Model, Haemotherm for Liver Transplant Surgery, PediatricFiber Optic Video Bronchoscope, Interferon Gamma Release Assay kit, Pacemaker (Temporary) Single Chamber, Pacemaker (Temporary) Dual Chamber, Spindle Grinder, Refrigerated Blood Transport Box - Various Types, HLA Typing System, Biological Effluent Decontamination Plant, Trial Set, Digital PET CT Scanner	N.A.	03.07.2024 5.00 p.m.
		Optical Biometer Model B, Hand Held Autorefractokeratometer, Specular Microscope Model B, Slit Lamp Bio microscope, Automated Field Analyzer (Perimeter) Model B, Anterior Cervical Instrument (Radio Lucent), Endo Laser Unit, Multispot Laser, SPO2 Analyser, Automated Electrophoresis Apparatus with all accessories Type C, Tissue Processor (High End), ELISA - Fully Automated, Cordless Ultrasonic Dissector, Optical Biometer Model A, TMJ Arthroscopy Set, Chest Vibrator, HemostasisAnalyzer System, CT Scanner 16 Slice with Flat Table Top Couch(CT Simulator), Power Drill and Reamer for Orthopedics, Dental Lathe, Pure Tone Audiometer Model A, Battery Operated Power Drill with Reamer Saw and Accessories, Live 3D (4D) Echocardiography System, Ultrasonic Scaler, Fluidotherapy Machine, Pulse Dye Laser, Apex Locator, MRI Compatible Ventilator, Perkins Hand Held Tonometer, Minimally Invasive Tubular Retractor System for Spine Surgery, Parallel Synthesizer, Particle Counter for Checking Modular OT Performance, Cell Analyzer, Suction Cannula, ECMO, Lab Micromotor with Handpiece, Micro Incinerator, Shower Trolley, Various General Furniture, ETO Sterilizer Model C, Warmer Baby, Weighing Machine Baby (Electronic), Salters Baby Weighing Machine, Multiparameter monitor(5 para) with central monitoring system, Pulse Oxymeter Baby and Adult, Mobile Digital Radiography Model B, Electrosurgical Unit with vessel sealing system for General Surgery, Urology and Gynaecology , Hand Held Pulse Oximeter, Infantometer, Whole Body Phototherapy Unit, Transvaginal Uterine Artery Clamp,Gynec OT Table, Surgeons Stool, Retractor Set, Mobile Spot Light LED Model B, Cardio Pulmonary Exercise Stress Testing Machine	N.A.	12.07.2024 5.00 p.m.

Tender documents and all other information related to tender and bidding process can be downloaded from the website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

Sd/- Managing Director (Tender Inviting Authority)

KYIV

U.S. lifts ban on sending weapons to controversial Kyiv military unit

AP

The U.S. has lifted a ban on providing American weapons and training to Azov Brigade, a controversial Ukrainian military unit that was key to the defence of the major port city of Mariupol. The Azov Brigade has been dogged by its fighters' links to far-right circles and also criticism for some of its tactics. AP

MOSCOW

Russia says its troops captured two more eastern Ukrainian villages

AP

Russia said on Tuesday it had captured two more villages in eastern Ukraine, in the latest in a string of gains for Moscow on the battlefield. Moscow said Russian forces took Timkovka in the northeastern Kharkiv region and Miasozharivka, calling it by its Russian name of Artemovka, in the eastern Lugansk region. AFP

BEIJING

Four American college instructors stabbed in northeastern China

REUTERS

Four American college instructors working in China were wounded in a stabbing at a public park, their employer said, with Beijing on Tuesday describing it as an "isolated" incident. The four were on an academic exchange and worked as instructors at Iowa's Cornell College, which said they were wounded in a "serious incident". AFP

DUBAI

49 migrants dead after boat sinks off Yemen's coast, says UN agency

AP

A boat carrying more than 200 migrants sank off Yemen, leaving at least 49 dead, mostly women and children. "At least 49 migrants have died and 140 others remain missing after a boat" carrying 260 people capsized off the southern province of Shabwah on Monday, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said. AFP

Saulos Klaus Chilima

Vice-President of Malawi, 9 others killed in plane crash

Associated Press
BLANTYRE

Malawi's Vice-President Saulos Chilima and nine other people died when the small military plane they were travelling in crashed in bad weather in a mountainous region in the north of the country, the President said on Tuesday. Chilima was 51.

President Lazarus Chakwera announced that the wreckage of the plane that went missing on Monday morning had been located after a search of more than 24 hours in thick forests and hilly terrain near the city of Mzuzu. He said the wreckage was found near a hill and the plane had been "completely destroyed," with everyone killed on impact.

The seven passengers included members of Chilima's staff and security detail along with former First Lady Shanil Dzimbiri. There were three crew members.

The search for the plane had begun since it went missing on Monday at around 10 a.m. while making the 45-minute flight from Lilongwe to Mzuzu.

The group was travelling to attend the funeral of a former government minister.

Hunter Biden convicted of all three charges in gun case

The ruling marks the first time the child of a sitting U.S. President is criminally prosecuted; President Biden says he will continue to respect the judicial process as son considers an appeal

Agence France-Presse
WILMINGTON

A jury found Hunter Biden guilty on Tuesday of federal gun charges in a historic first criminal prosecution of the child of a sitting U.S. President.

The 54-year-old son of U.S. President Joe Biden was convicted of all three of the felony counts stemming from his 2018 purchase of a handgun while addicted to crack cocaine.

Critical timing: Hunter Biden and his wife, Melissa Cohen Biden, returns to court in Wilmington, Delaware on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

Biden's support

The verdict comes as his father is seeking re-election, and the Democratic President changed his schedule to fly later on Tuesday to Wilmington, Delaware, the family hometown where the trial was held.

Mr. Biden expressed his "love and support" for his son in a statement released immediately after the conviction. "I am the President, but I am also a Dad," Mr. Biden said.

"So many families who have had loved ones battle addiction understand the feeling of pride seeing someone you love come out the other side and be so strong and resilient in recovery.

"I will accept the outcome of this case and will continue to respect the judicial process as Hunter considers an appeal."

Hunter Biden did not take the stand during the one-week trial, which First Lady Jill Biden attended several days.

He could face up to 25 years in prison, although as a first-time offender jail time is unlikely. A date was not set for sentencing but it is expected to take place in the next few months.

'Horrified' by the plight of plantation workers in Sri Lanka, says tribunal

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

An international tribunal of former judges from the region said it was "horrified by the stark realities" of the lives of Sri Lanka's tea and rubber plantation workers, after hearing testimonies from workers and trade unions.

Hailing from the island nation's Malaiyaha Tamil community, tens of thousands of workers are engaged in tea and rubber production. They earn vital foreign exchange for the country that is struggling to rebuild its economy after the dramatic meltdown of 2022. Last year, Sri Lanka's revenue from tea exports totalled $1.3 billion, while rubber-based exports fetched $930 million, according to the Export Development Board.

However, the workers who toil in the country's plantations continue to work and live in abysmal conditions. "It has shocked the conscience of the Tribunal that such practices could continue unabated in the modern civilised world," members said in their findings, echoing concerns that trade unions, local activists, and UN experts have flagged in the past.

Bitter brew: Plantation workers of Sri Lanka have for long demanded fair wages, better working and living conditions. REUTERS

India's presence

Organised by Ceylon Workers Red Flag Union, a trade union based in the island's central Kandy district, the Tribunal heard eleven workers employed in tea and rubber plantations across central and southern Sri Lanka, as well as three trade union representatives last week.

Testifying before the tribunal – with Justice A.P. Shah from India, Justice P.K. Pawan Kumar Ojha from Nepal and Justice Shiranee Tilakawardane from Sri Lanka as its members – the workers, mostly women, shared the multiple challenges they encounter at work, such as the demanding targets tied to their daily wage and the absence of sanitation facilities. Leech bites and wasp attacks are common, while medical care remains out of reach, more so amid soaring living costs following the country's crisis.

In his remarks at the conclusion of the hearing, Justice Shah noted: "they live practically a sub human life, and certainly do not have a life of dignity".

On May 1, 2024, President Ranil Wickremesinghe announced an increase in the daily wage of plantation workers from LKR 1,000 to LKR 1,700 (roughly ₹468). Plantation companies vehemently opposed the move and petitioned Sri Lanka's Court of Appeal, seeking an order invalidating the gazette on the wage hike. But the court refused to stay the gazette notification.

A recent study led by University of Peradeniya Economist Prof. S. Vijesandiran estimated that the total monthly household expenditure for a tea estate worker's family of four, as of April 2024, would be LKR 86,897.71 (roughly ₹ 23,913) for "a decent life in the context of the cost of living and inflation effect as of September 2022." That would mean a worker must earn at least LKR 2,321.04 (around ₹ 638.71) a day.

Recommendations

The Tribunal recommended that all measures be taken by stakeholders including the State "to execute in letter and spirit, without delay, the minimum wage of Rs. 1,700 fixed by the government.". Further, it urged the Sri Lankan government to prohibit "all unfair practices adopted by the plantation companies", such as reducing days of work, arbitrarily increasing daily targets and informalising labour to deprive workers of their right to receive the minimum, statutorily fixed wage.

Palestine armed groups, Israel carried out war crimes: UN

Associated Press
GENEVA

At least 274 Palestinians were killed in an Israeli attack on a Gaza refugee camp

The UN human rights office is citing possible war crimes by Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups in connection with a deadly raid by Israeli forces that freed four hostages over the weekend and killed hundreds of Palestinians.

Office spokesman Jeremy Laurence expressed concerns about violations of rules by the Israeli forces in Saturday's raid at the Nuseirat refugee camp. Palestinian health officials say at least 274 Palestinians were killed in the operation.

Mr. Laurence said Palestinian armed groups who are holding hostages in densely populated areas are putting the lives of nearby civilians and the hostages at "added risks" from the hostilities.

UNSC endorses ceasefire resolution to end Gaza war

Associated Press
UNITED NATIONS

The UN Security Council on Monday overwhelmingly approved its first resolution endorsing a ceasefire plan aimed at ending the eight-month war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza Strip.

The U.S.-sponsored resolution welcomes a ceasefire proposal announced by President Joe Biden that the United States says Israel has accepted. It calls on the militant Palestinian group Hamas to accept the three-phase plan.

The resolution – which was approved with 14 of the 15 Security Council members voting in favour and Russia abstaining – calls on Israel and Hamas "to fully implement its terms without delay and without condition."

Whether Israel and Hamas agree to go forward with the plan remains in question, but the resolution's strong support in the UN's most powerful body puts added pressure on both parties to approve the proposal.

Sport

NRAI sticks to its selection process

PARIS 2024

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Rifle Association of India has chosen a 15-member squad of rifle and pistol shooters for the Olympics in Paris, following a virtual deliberation by the selection committee.

The committee stuck to the selection criteria and chose the top-two shooters of the selection trials in each of the eight rifle and pistol events. Manu Bhaker got the nod for both women's air pistol and sports pistol events as she topped both.

Thus, one of the women's pistol quota would be exchanged for women's trap quota.

World champion Rudrankksh Patil, Mehuli Ghosh, and Akhil Sehoran were some of the leading shooters to miss the cut, along with few others like Tilottama Sen, Shriyanka Sadangi and Varun Tomar who had won the Olympic quota.

The Indian squad is already training in France, and will take a two-week break at home, before reassembling for the Games.

The squad: Air rifle: Sandeep Singh, Arjun Babuta; Elavenil Valarivan, Ramita Jindal; **Rifle 3-position**: Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar; Swapnil Kusale; Sift Kaur Samra, Anjum Moudgil; **Air pistol:** Sarabjot Singh, Arjun Singh Cheema; Manu Bhaker, Rhythm Sangwan; **25m rapid fire pistol:** Anish Bhanwala; Vijayveer Sidhu; **25m sports pistol:** Manu Bhaker, Esha Singh.

Open section: five-way tie at the top

WORLD JUNIOR CHESS

P.K. Ajith Kumar
GANDHINAGAR

The day began with a four-way tie and ended with another player joining the party. With just two rounds remaining, the World junior chess championship is heading for a close finish.

Daniel Quizon is the latest to join the band of leaders. The Philippines player beat Russian Artion Stribuk on the third board in the ninth round at the Gift City Club on Tuesday.

The four overnight leaders – Kazybek Nogerbek of Kazakhstan, Russia's Rudik Makarian, Mamikon Gharibyan of Armenia, and Colombia's Jose Gabriel Cardoso – were featured in the drawn games on the top two boards.

Plotting her moves: Sachi shocked Beloslava. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In the girls' event, Divya Deshmukh continues to be in the sole lead. She took her tally to eight points after punishing compatriot Rakshitta Ravi for her weak moves in their 41-move French Defence game. Mariam Mkrtchyan of Armenia is in second place with 7.5 points. Sachi Jain, who shocked third seed Beloslava Krasteva of Bulgaria, is third, on seven points.

Important results (ninth round): Open: Kazybek Nogerbek (Kaz) 7 drew with Rudik Makarian (FIDE) 7; Mamikon Gharibyan (Arm) 7 drew with Jose Gabriel Cardoso (Col) 7; Daniel Quizon (Phi) 7 bt Artion Stribuk (FIDE) 6; Pranav Anand 6 drew with Aleksey Grebnev (FIDE) 6.5; Emin Ohanyan (Arm) 6.5 bt Mayank Chakraborty 5.5; Luka Budisavljevic (Srb) 6.5 bt Santiago Avila (Col) 5.5; Ethan Vaz 6 drew with L.R. Srihari 6; Tobias Koelle (Ger) 6 drew with Pham Tran Gia Phuc (Vie) 6; Anuj Shrivatri 6 drew with Aditya Samant 6; Shawn Rodrigue-Lemieux (Can) 6 bt L.M.S.T. De Silva 5.5.

Girls: Rakshitta Ravi 6.5 lost to Divya Deshmukh 8; Mariam Mkrtchyan (Arm) 7.5 bt Sofia Hryzlova (Sui) 6; Sachi Jain 7 bt Beloslava Krasteva (Bul) 6; V. Rindhiya 6 lost to Ayan Allahverdiyeva (Aze) 6.5; Swara Lakshmi Nair 6 drew with Martyna Wikar (Pol) 6; Oshini Gunawardhana (SL) 6.5 bt Xeniya Balabayeva (Kaz) 5.5; Ksenia Norman (FIDE) 6.5 bt Ayalum Kaladorva (Kaz) 5.5; Anupam Sreekumar 5.5 lost to Narmin Abdinova (Aze) 6.5; Liya Kurmangaliyeva (Kaz) 5 lost to Shubhi Gupta 6.5; Kheerthi Ganta 5.5 drew with Anna Zhurova (FIDE) 5.5.

India to host Hockey men's Junior World Cup 2025

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

India will host the men's Hockey Junior World Cup for a record fourth time when the 14th edition of the tournament returns in December 2025. It will also be the first time the competition will feature 24 teams, up from the 16 in the last edition.

The decision was taken by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) in its recent Executive Board meeting and announced on Tuesday. India last hosted the JWC in 2021, finishing fourth in Bhubaneswar. The exact venue is yet to be finalised.

"I'm happy that we've increased the number of participating teams," FIH President Tayyab Ikram said in a statement.

"We're delighted that the FIH chose India," Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey added.

The Indian men's Junior team is currently ranked second in the world in the official FIH rankings that were introduced in June 2023. India also became the only team to win the competition as host when it claimed its second title in 2016.

Germany is the reigning Junior World champion, having won its seventh title in the last edition.

OPTIMISTIC

We have confidence in Jadeja and others like Dube too: Mhambrey

K.R. DEEPAK

India bowling coach Paras Mhambrey backed Ravindra Jadeja to strike form soon. "It is a long tournament. Someone like Jadeja, who is so vastly experienced, will surely come good. We have confidence in Jadeja and others like (Shivam) Dube too," Mhambrey said on the eve of the match against USA.

JONES' TAKE

'We have gained more fans and hope to see them in the stadium'

K.R. DEEPAK

USA batter Aaron Jones is hopeful that his team's success at the T20 World Cup will attract more fans to stadiums. "I think we will get a bigger crowd for the India game on Wednesday. We have gained more fans and we hope to see them in the stadium. India is a popular team, but I think there will be support for both teams."

BIG OCCASION

Indian-origin players excited about Wednesday's contest, says Jones

ICC

Aaron Jones feels that for the players with Indian roots in the USA squad, Wednesday's contest is a big occasion. "The Indian-origin players are excited about the game. Some of the guys, like Netravalkar, have played against the Indians back when they were in India. It's exciting for them to play against old friends," he said.

FOCUSED

We can't take the USA game lightly, every match matters: Mhambrey

K.R. DEEPAK

India will not take USA lightly, bowling coach Paras Mhambrey said. "We can't take the game lightly. Every match matters. We are used to the conditions just like them. Purely with the experience we have, we should do well," Mhambrey said. Both India and USA go into Wednesday's contest with two wins each.

The Great American dream faces a reality test against Men In Blue

The USA players, having roots in India and unable to reach the highest echelons of Indian cricket, get a shot at redemption; the batters have to cope with Bumrah & Co. while the host's pacers could pose questions as Rohit, Kohli look to find form

T20 WORLD CUP

Ashwin Achal
NEW YORK

Opening salvo: Skipper Rohit and Kohli would look to fire in the PowerPlay and get India off to a sizzling start. K.R. DEEPAK

When Harmeet Singh made his First Class debut for Mumbai, Rohit Sharma was his teammate. Saurabh Netravalkar took the field at the 2010 Under-19 Cricket World Cup alongside K.L. Rahul and Mayank Agarwal.

Nosthush Kenjige played with Ambati Rayudu for MI Emirates. Milind Kumar once shared the Royal Challengers Bangalore dressing room with Virat Kohli.

Harmeet, Netravalkar, Kenjige and Milind could not quite reach the highest echelons of Indian cricket, and moved to greener pastures in the USA. For this group, and a few more in the USA squad, a shot at redemption is here.

In what must feel like an unlikely dream, USA hosts India in a Group-A ICC Men's T20 World Cup match here on Wednesday.

USA, primarily made up of players with roots in India, Pakistan and West Indies, is on a roll. The side started the campaign with a win over neighbour Canada, before shocking the world with a Super Over victory over Pakistan.

Dream run

From rank outsider, USA is now in with a real chance of reaching the Super 8. Belief will be high that another upset, this time against India, is not beyond reach.

Monank Patel, born in Anand (Gujarat), leads from the front. Monank laid the platform for USA in the Pakistan game with a classy 38-ball 50.

Ali Khan, who moved to the USA from Pakistan nearly 15 years ago, is a pace threat alongside Netravalkar. Former New Zealand all-rounder Corey Anderson is a familiar name in the squad.

The American dream faces a severe test against India. The standout side in this tournament, India has skipped over all potential potholes. Rohit Sharma's men have passed the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium pitch test twice.

No toss factor

Batting first or second has made no difference to the outcome. The USA batters will need to raise their game several notches to tackle the phenomenal Jasprit Bumrah. Hardik Pandya has come on well as a wicket-taking option with his steady seamers.

Stacked with all-rounders, Rohit Sharma has bowling options galore. On the batting front, Rishabh Pant, Axar Patel and Rohit have found form. The team management is keen to keep the batting order flexible.

This led to Axar Patel being promoted to four against Pakistan - a move that bore fruit.

India will hope that Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav get going. Kohli has been unable to crack the code on this challenging surface, falling for 1 and 4. Suryakumar's penchant for big shots has not worked here, as he too has returned single-digit scores.

The crowd on Wednesday would love to see a Kohli or Suryakumar masterclass. A fighting effort from the underdog host will receive equal applause.

'Hardik's confidence was never in doubt'

Steely resolve: Hardik has responded with grit and determination after a forgettable IPL 2024. K.R. DEEPAK

Ashwin Achal
NEW YORK

India bowling coach Paras Mhambrey stated that despite Hardik Pandya's poor run in IPL 2024, his work ethic and confidence did not take a hit. Hardik has made a turnaround in the T20 World Cup, taking five wickets in two matches.

"Hardik's confidence in his ability was never in doubt. Sometimes you don't get into rhythm, no matter what you do. You're bowling consistently, but you just cannot get into a rhythm. His work ethic was the same. We knew he was going to come good," Mhambrey said on the eve of the clash against USA.

Mhambrey praised USA pacer Saurabh Netravalkar, who earned his stripes as a First Class cricketer for Mumbai.

"I am extremely happy for him. I remember Saurabh playing a couple of games for us (Mumbai) even though it was after my time. It is not an easy decision to leave India, but he has been successful. He gives hope to others. It tells people in India that if you don't make it in India, you can make it elsewhere. I have read that he works for Oracle. He is a semi-professional cricketer. That is not easy," Mhambrey said.

He said India's bowling performance against Pakistan was one of the finest in recent times. "The context of the game, the World Cup, the way we handled the pressure... this was right up there as a great bowling performance."

Pakistan beats Canada, keeps its hopes alive

Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK

Mohammad Rizwan and captain Babar Azam starred as Pakistan stayed alive at the T20 World Cup with a seven-wicket win over Canada on Tuesday.

Match-winning stand

Knowing defeat would condemn it to a shock first-round exit, Rizwan and Babar put on a match-winning second-wicket partnership of 63 as Pakistan reached its target of 107 with 15 balls to spare.

Opener Rizwan finished undefeated on 53 off 53 balls with two fours and a six for his 29th T20I half-century while Babar made 33 off as many balls with one four a six.

The scores: Canada 106/7 in 20 overs (Johnson 52, Amir 2/13, Rauf 2/26) lost to Pakistan 107/3 in 17.3 overs (Rizwan 53 n.o., Babar 33, Heyliger 2/18); **Toss:** Pakistan; **PoM:** Amir.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Sri Lanka vs Nepal
Florida, 5 a.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD T20Is
First Meeting

Australia vs Namibia
Antigua, 6 a.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD T20Is
First Meeting

USA vs India
New York, 8 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD T20Is
First Meeting

Experience versus enterprise — a contest worth going miles to watch

Sunil Gavaskar

Two sides with epic nail-biting wins will clash to see who gets to head the table in their group. Both India and USA had victories over the current runners-up Pakistan, which were nerve jangling affairs. In the two games they have played so far, the USA team have shown not only some fine skills but also great character, which is a hallmark of good temperament.

In the opening game of the tournament, they were chasing a near 200 score against their neighbours Canada and at the halfway stage of their chase, it looked like a mountain to climb with no boots on. Whatever was said at the drinks interval by their coach Stuart Law, the former Australian player, must be a magic mantra for after that the pair of Andries Gous and Aaron Jones began to hit sixes as if they were practising range hitting. Jones, in particular, smote the ball far and wide and in such an effortless manner that the Canadian bowlers had no second wind. He is not a big guy, so it was jaw-dropping stuff. He hit 10 sixes. Gous wasn't far behind as they got to their target with deliveries to spare.

Patel and Jones impress

Then against Pakistan chasing a good score, the skipper Monank Patel led the way with Jones again deciding to have a batting party. Their temperament was seen in the Super over where they kept their cool and stopped Pakistan well short of the score.

India, too, showed they have the burning desire to bring home the trophy with some inspired bowling. Their batters seemed to have forgotten that they were playing on a pitch, which aided the fast bowlers who also had the help of a cloud cover.

It is one thing looking to play the big shots on good batting pitches in the IPL and quite another when playing against world class quicks on a pitch made for them. The Indian batters did not cover themselves with glory apart from Rishabh Pant, who led a charmed life and batted with his usual chutzpah and bold way.

When it came to defend the paltry total the sun was out in all its glory and there was hardly any swing available but the new ball bowlers kept a good line and length and did not let the Pakistanis get off to a flying start. Still, it was Pakistan's game to lose and they did it big time by batting dot balls and then playing some silly shots. Bumrah deservedly was the player of the match with his deadly variety, but one mustn't forget the crucial wickets Pandya took as well as Arshdeep's cool in the final over. It was a win for the ages.

The India-USA game will be between experience and enterprise. It is worth going miles to see.

(Professional Management Group)

Controversial goal leads to India's exit from FIFA World Cup Qualifiers

Ecstasy and agony: India and Chhangte's joy — after going ahead — was shortlived. REUTERS, FANCODE

Press Trust of India
DOHA

Poor refereeing robbed India of a chance to secure a historic entry into the third round of the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers as fancied Qatar rode on a controversial goal to emerge 2-1 winners here on Tuesday.

Disaster strikes

India was ahead, thanks to Lallianzuala Chhangte's 37th minute strike, but disaster struck when the referee adjudged Yousef Aymen's goal as fair after the ball appeared to have gone out of play.

The controversial decision disturbed India as it allowed Asian champion Qatar to score its second through Ahmed Al-Rawi in the 85th minute.

In another final second round match, Kuwait beat Afghanistan 1-0. Qatar and Kuwait thus progressed to the third round.

INBRIEF

Satwik-Chirag duo loses No. 1 ranking, slips two rungs

The premier Indian doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who pulled out of their title defence at the Indonesia Open last week, has slipped two rungs to third in the latest Badminton World Federation rankings released on Tuesday. China's Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang are the new men's doubles No. 1 followed by Denmark's Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen.

Rout-Swain pair bows out in Australian Open first round

Harshitaa Rout and Sruti Swain suffered a 19-21, 19-21 loss to Australia's Dania Nugroho and Kai Qi Bernice Teoh in the opening round of the women's doubles event at the Australian Open badminton tournament in Sydney on Tuesday.

Bhambri-Olivetti pair enters the last eight in Stuttgart

Yuki Bhambri in partnership with Albano Olivetti of France eased past second seeds Neal Skupski and Michael Venus 6-4, 6-2 in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the €812,235 ATP tennis tournament in Stuttgart on Tuesday.

Other results: €148,625 Challenger, Perugia, Italy: Singles (first round): Sumit Nagal bt Nerman Fatic (BIH) 7-6(1), 6-2.
$15,000 ITF men, Hong Kong: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): S.D. Prajwal Dev & Adil Kalyanpur bt Aayush Bhat (USA) & William Jansen (GBr) 6-3, 6-2; Ryotaro Taguchi & Ryota Tanuma (Jpn) bt Yuttana Charoenphon (Tha) & Dev Javia 6-1, 6-4; Ajeet Rai (NZ) & Rishi Reddy bt Jack Cheng & Ethan Leung (HK) 6-2, 6-0.

Jose Molina replaces Habas as MBSG head coach

Indian Super League champion Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) has appointed the former sporting director of the Royal Spanish Football Federation, Jose Molina, as the new head coach. Molina replaces compatriot Antonio Lopez Habas, who had helped the team win the League Shield in the just-concluded ISL-10.

12-member Indian squad for shotgun World Cup

A full fledged 12-member Indian team will compete in the trap and skeet events of the shotgun World Cup in Lonato, Italy, from Wednesday. The performance of the shooters would help them consolidate their chances of representing the country in the Paris Olympics. India had won quota places through Bhowneesh Mendriatta, Rajeshwari Kumari, Anantjeet Singh Naruka, Maheshwari Chauhan, and Raiza Dhillon. It will also get a women's trap quota in exchange for the unused women's pistol quota.

The squad: Trap: Prithviraj Tondaiman, Vivaan Kapoor, Bhowneesh Mendiratta; Rajeshwari Kumari, Shreyasi Singh, Manisha Keer.
Skeet: Anantjeet Singh Naruka, Mairaj Khan, Sheeraz Sheikh; Ganemat Sekhon, Maheshwari Chauhan, Raiza Dhillon.

BENGALURU LOCALS

Ashwin excels in Chikkamagalur Districts' narrow win over DRDO

Ashwin top-scored with 21 points as Chikkamagalur District pipped DRDO 78-76 in the State C-division men's basketball league championship here on Tuesday

St. Joseph's Boys pip Vidyashilp

St. Joseph's Boys High School edged out Vidyashilp 5-4 in a boys match of the Hockey Karnataka U-16 7s tournament here on Tuesday. In a girls encounter, Bishop Cotton Girls High School defeated Head Start 4-1.

Easy for Sports Hood FC

Sports Hood FC blanked Amey FC 3-0 in the KSFA D-division football league championship here on Tuesday.

The results: Sports Hood FC 3 (Vishnu 22, S. Govinda 43, Abhinand 54) bt Amey FC 0; Silicans FC 1 (Gautam Kupuswamy 36) drew with FC Revelation 1 (D. Denis Vimal Raj 28); All Stars 3 (B. Biju 18, Aayush Singaraju 30, Om Hallur 34) bt KGF FC 0.

LIVE TELECAST

T20 World Cup: USA vs India, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m. & 6 a.m. (Thursday)

Davids and Goliaths: the story of Groups A-C

Host Germany the favourite to go through in Group A while a three-way tussle between Spain, Italy, and Croatia will see one heavyweight eliminated in the Group of Death; England looks poised for another title charge while dark horses Hungary and Denmark will hope to spring a surprise or two

Bold moves: Coach Nagelsmann has raised Germany's hopes while Croatia will hope Modric, right, and Perisic sign off on a high. AP

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

As Germany gets ready to host Euro 2024 from June 14 (Friday), an analysis of Groups A to C.

Group A: Germany, Scotland, Hungary and Switzerland.

Tournament host Germany faces Hungary, Switzerland and Scotland.

Getting through the group will be not be easy, particularly with Hungary firing under manager Marco Rossi. The Hungarians have been in outstanding form, losing just once in their last 13 games.

Nagelsmann made 11 changes in March, dropping established stars like Leon Goretzka, Serge Gnabry, Mats Hummels and Niklas Suele for in-form players from league champions Bayer Leverkusen and surprise package Stuttgart. The change paid dividends, with his side beating France and the Netherlands in March.

Freiburg's creative forward Roland Sallai and Liverpool's dynamic Szoboszlai round out a team heavy with Bundesliga experience, which may be crucial when Hungary meet the hosts in Stuttgart.

Switzerland will need to come good at Euro 2024 before it loses its shine with stars Xhaka, Sommer and Shaqiri all on the wrong side of 30 while Manchester City's Manuel Akanji is 28.

Scotland will open the tournament against host Germany on June 14 and, despite losing striker Lyndon Dykes, boasts plenty of Premier League talent, including captain Andy Robertson, Scott McTominay and John McGinn.

Group B: Spain, Croatia, Italy and Albania

Heavyweight Spain, defending champion Italy and 2018 World Cup runner-up Croatia will fight it out in the dreaded group of death as they battle to reach the knockout stages. A durable Albania side will be determined to do more than just make up the numbers in Group B.

Spain are favourites to progress after defeating both Italy and Croatia to win their first UEFA Nations League title in 2023, but those hard-fought matches revealed there is little between the three powerful teams.

Spain, with fiery youngsters like Lamine Yamal and Nico Williams, has the flair and speed it missed in the past to complement their deep reserves of technical ability.

La Roja are still without a reliable goalscorer, with Atletico Madrid's Alvaro Morata badly out of form.

Reigning champion Italy is a tough prospect on paper despite its failure to reach the 2022 World Cup.

The two-time winners boast several players from Serie A champions Inter Milan's side, led by playmaker Nicolo Barella, and a formidable backline led by PSG's Gianluigi Donnarumma.

Croatia were knocked out by Spain in the last 16 at Euro 2020 but their blend of experience and emerging talent could take them far further on this occasion.

Runners-up at the 2018 World Cup and third in Qatar two years ago, Zlatko Dalic's Croatia will try to give 38-year-old veteran midfielder Luka Modric a superb swansong.

Albania start against Italy on June 15, while Spain take on Croatia to kick off the group.

Group C: Slovenia, Denmark, Serbia and England

Gareth Southgate's England, who face Serbia, Denmark and Slovenia in the group stage, head to Germany as one of the leading contenders for European glory after a series of painful near misses in recent tournaments, including a penalty shoot-out loss to Italy in Euro 2020.

Denmark famously won the 1992 Euros and, while Kasper Hjulmand's squad failed to make it out of their group at the last World Cup, they are still capable of causing a surprise in Germany.

Slovenia are participating in a major tournament for only the fourth time and the first since the 2010 World Cup.

While neighbours Serbia will rely on a star-studded attack of Dusan Vlahovic, Dusan Tadic and Luka Jovic to fuel their bid for a place in the last 16.

England is right at the sweet spot now, says Chhetri

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Sunil Chhetri breathes football. Barely days after he hung up his international football boots, the former skipper will be back on the television screens, this time as an expert for Euro 2024, which begins this Friday in Germany.

Chhetri is most excited to see England, which finished a worthy runner-up to Italy in the last edition. "You can't go beyond the usual suspects, you know, France, Germany, England etc.," Chhetri told *The Hindu* on Tuesday when asked about the favourites.

"But I feel England is right at the sweet spot now. The likes of [Phil] Foden, [Jude] Bellingham... prodigies once, are world leaders now. If you can leave out the likes of Marcus Rashford and Jack Grealish, you can imagine the kind of talent England has."

Chhetri. R.V. MOORTHY

In 2016, Wales was a surprise semifinalist, and in Euro 2020, it was Denmark's turn. Chhetri believes that the conditions are ripe for another fairytale run.

"I think Hungary and Turkey can be those teams. I'm saying purely on all the action that I've seen in the last one-and-a-half years and their qualification performances. They have been outstanding.

"Talent matters. Big names matter. But sometimes in big tournaments, form matters. You don't have the luxury of waiting for six, seven games," Chhetri added.

Last hurrah

The tournament is also expected to be the last of the big events the likes of Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (39) and Croatia's Luka Modric (38) will be part of. German midfielder Toni Kroos (34), who recently won his fifth UEFA Champions League with Real Madrid, has already announced that Euro 2024 will be his last bow.

"The thing that keeps them going is their love for the game," Chhetri said. "For Modric to win the Champions League [with Real Madrid for the sixth time], and still come for training, get elbowed and get tackled... If you don't love the game you won't do it."

(Watch UEFA EURO 2024 from 15th June 2024, 12:30 AM IST onwards, LIVE on Sony Sports Ten 2 SD & HD).

Another chance for many stars to stake their claim for Paris Olympics

INDIAN GP

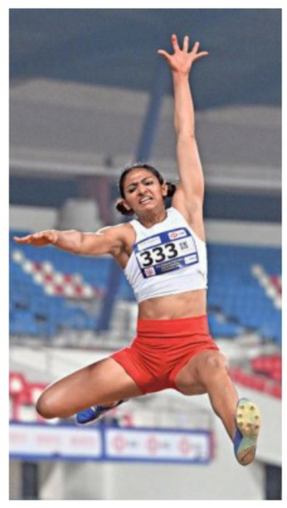
N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

The third Indian Grand Prix, among the last competitions that will serve as a qualification meet for the 2024 Paris Olympics, will be held at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Wednesday.

There are no eye-popping names in the fray, perhaps because the National inter-State championship is scheduled in close proximity (June 27-30 in Panchkula, Haryana).

But there are a few notable athletes who will look to brave the monsoon weather, and either breach the direct qualification mark or improve their standings in the world rankings to give themselves a shot at Paris.

The entry lists indicate that the women's 400m will be interesting, with the likes of Prachi, Vithya Ramraj, Subha Venkatesan, V.K. Vismaya and Poovamma keen to put in good performances.



Nayana. FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

The men's and women's 4x400m relay teams have punched their tickets to Paris but the final squad of quartermilers is yet to be announced.

Abha Khatua, who created a new National record in women's shot put at the recently held Federation Cup, Karthik Unnikrishnan in men's triple jump, and Nayana James in women's long jump are also set to participate.

Nayana has had a stellar season, winning the Indian Open Jumps title with a new personal best (6.67m), clinching the Federation Cup gold and leaping 6.43m in Taiwan recently, her longest outside India.

But the entry threshold for Paris is 6.86m, three centimetres more than Anju Bobby George's long-standing National record.

Nayana is expected to be challenged by Ancy Sojan, the Asian Games silver medallist with a personal best of 6.63m. The young and upcoming Shaili Singh hasn't entered the meet.

Men's javelin is set to feature Kishore Jena and Rohit Yadav. The former, already confirmed for Paris, will look to improve massively on his 2024 season best of 76.31m. Rohit will need a new personal best to go past the qualification mark (85.50m).

Taking cricket to America involves a difficult culture transfer

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

In the 1950 football World Cup, US, a minor power in the game defeated England 1-0. US was characterised as "a team of lower-league dropouts and amateurs." The win barely registered at home.

There was a lone US reporter present and the result was received "with massive indifference," according to a later writer.

It did not signal a football revival nor was it the starting point of a popular upsurge in the game.

To be fair, it wasn't hyped thus, unlike the T20 World Cup which many see as the game coming home to the country where the first international was played in 1844.

Following the US win over Pakistan, the *New York Times* headline said, *US Scores Historic Cricket Win, but only Pakistan Notices*. Once again America seemed oblivious to a sporting feat.

A special advisor to the Yankees, the professional baseball team, said the India-Pakistan match reminded him of the Dominican baseball league. It may have been a compliment, but I am no expert on baseball, just as the local reporter who said India beat Pakistan 119-113 is no expert on cricket.

Not yet ready

It might be politically incorrect to say this, but America isn't ready to embrace cricket yet. The picture of a young boy in Michigan or New York putting his oval football away forever and carrying a cricket bat is a difficult one to conjure up.

For starters, the International Cricket Council needs to market the game better, take it to the grassroots with more passion, and explore all avenues including making the commentary and visual presentation more attractive and inclusive.

Right now it seems to have a single-focus policy: India versus Pakistan. Much of the criticism of the drop-in pitches could have been avoided had the ICC paid more attention to the amount of time required to nurse these to international standards.

Low-scoring matches make T20 interesting, but the possibility of injury doesn't.

As former England captain Michael Vaughan said, "Trying to sell the game in the States is great, but for players to have to play on substandard surfaces is unacceptable."

To attract an American crowd (as opposed to an immigrant one), cricket should be presented in a manner Americans can identify with.

It can start with television which is basically for the converted who can put up with the inanities and irrelevancies of the Indian commentators.

Special set of skills

Americans need more statistics, more background, more excitement (as opposed to loudness) and better conversation generally.

To transfer a culture and a philosophy from an established community to one that is emerging requires a special set of skills.

Just as the ICC must first coach the coaches who can then take the game forward in the US, it must spend time with the TV channels on how best to attract a new audience without losing the old one.

When the American magazine *Sports Illustrated* sent a baseball writer to England in 1961 to write about this game called cricket, he wrote, "To appreciate cricket, an American must first understand it." Over six decades later, that is still key.

Decades of American jokes ("Cricket is basically baseball on Valium," said actor Robin Williams) have to be countered in the public imagination with a suggestion that those who can't enjoy the game are philistines.

The ICC might have missed a trick in not involving Hollywood and sports stars in a celebrity-obsessed society. Genuine cricket lovers like Mark Wahlberg ("I love the sport, could have played it professionally") and Gerard Butler, both of whom had stakes in teams in the Caribbean Premier League in the early days, John Hamm, Daniel Radcliffe, Ed Sheeran, Russell Crowe are some examples. Perhaps NBA and NFL stars could have been requisitioned too. Lebron James as brand ambassador? Just a thought...

After scoring the winning goal for the US against England, Haiti-born Joe Gaetjens returned to his country and soon disappeared.

He was killed, it is believed, by the death squad of his country's President. Saurabh Netravalkar, hero of the Super over in US's defeat of Pakistan, will return to his Oracle office in California when the World Cup stint is done.

The difference is significant; not for the first time, sport is writing a chapter in our history.